

syphilitic woman, and he received a severe head injury in infancy. He learned to walk at five years of age, and was able to pronounce monosyllables at six years. Puberty was normal. He practised sexual intercourse from age of fifteen, and had a child by his mistress. He led a vagrant life, and was sent to asylum in consequence of his aggressive sexual conduct.

The anthropological examination of the patient showed a large number of deviations from the normal, most of them being in the direction of a prehuman type—*e. g.*, head (maxim. horiz. circumf. 530 mm., ceph. index 82.08) oxycephalic, with median sagittal crest prolonged in line of metopic suture; lateral occipital crests strongly marked; supra-orbital ridges of a prominence recalling the Neanderthal skull; hair growing low on forehead and nape of neck; narrow oblique palpebral fissure, with wrinkled lids; marked development of caruncle; platyrrhine nose; prominent malars; projecting lips; prognathism; excessive development of central incisors; diastema in both jaws; Wildermuth ears; simian type of pelvis, with feeble development of gluteal muscles. There was a remarkable predominance of action of the flexor and pronator over the extensor and supinator muscles, shown in characteristic coiled attitudes when at rest, and in the limitation of certain movements, *e. g.*, supination of hand and forearm with extension on a flat surface, finer movements of opposition of thumb. The gait was simian. The facial and cervical muscles of expression showed a marked tendency to excessive associated action, *e. g.*, grinding of teeth was accompanied by vigorous contraction of the enormously developed *platysma myoides*. The psychic functions were expressed in very primitive and elementary forms, but without perversions. Full anthropometric details are given, and the facial and cranial characters are shown in two photographs.

Commenting on the case, the authors point out that while in most observations of degeneracy there is a discordant mixture of atavistic and pathological characters, in their patient there existed, on the contrary, "a harmony in the anatomical, functional, and psychical conditions, representing together a complex of characters to be met with not only in European children and in the races on a lower plane of evolution, but also in the anthropoid apes." They accordingly class the case as an instance of Sergi's "prehuman and bestial atavism." Consistent with the purely reversionary character of his organism, the patient, it is to be noted, had a normal procreative capacity, thereby differing importantly from the degenerates of the more purely pathological types.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Preliminary Note on the New Hereditary Character (Second Toe Longer than Hallux) in the Foot of Criminals [Cenni preliminari sul nuovo carattere ereditario (prevalenza del secondo dito sull'alluce) nel piede dei criminali]. (Arch. di Psichiat., vol. xxii, fasc. iii, 1901.) Frassetto.*

Having noticed that in nearly all the skeletons of criminals in Lombroso's collection the second toe was longer than the hallux, the author was led to examine the relative development of these digits in

normal individuals, children, and several classes of mammals. He finds that in passing from the Monotremata through the various orders up to the Primates, there is a progressive growth of the hallux, reaching its maximum in man. Thus a plane touching the tips of the hallux and second toe looks outwards (distal slope) in man, inwards (proximal slope) constantly in the other mammals, and frequently in some savage tribes, in criminals, in children, and in the foetus. The author concludes that in criminals there is an incomplete development of the hallux—an atavistic condition.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*The Anatomical Stigmata of Degeneracy* [*Les stigmates anatomiques de la dégénérescence*]. (*Gaz. des Hôp.*, Jan. 5th and 12th, 1901.) Mayet.

This paper gives an outline of the current ideas regarding the nature of degeneracy, and enumerates some of the chief anatomical conditions considered as characteristic of it.

The author defines degeneracy as "a hereditary state of lessened physical and moral perfection, tending to sterility and the rapid extinction of the degenerate individual and his stock."

The stigmata of degeneracy—isolated or found in syndromes—are divided into (1) anatomical; (2) physiological; (3) psychological; and (4) sociological.

Discussing the anatomical stigmata, the author emphasises their teratological nature; they are due to defective development of the embryo, dependent on one or more of the various causes capable of producing grave disorder in the foetal organism. The number of such causes operative in city life explains the great frequency of these stigmata in the urban population—a frequency which has led some writers to throw doubt on the significance of the stigmata. The author has found from personal observation that they are far less common in country dwellers, particularly in those who are healthy.

The stigmata met with in the different regions of the body are summarily described, with illustrations of the more important. A list of references to the literature of the subject completes the paper.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Note on Prints of the Palm of the Hand and of the Sole of the Foot* [*Note sur les empreintes de la paume de la main et de la plante du pied*]. (*Comptes rendus de la Société de Biologie*, June, 1900.) Féré.

This is a short note, illustrated by a figure in the text, on the arrangement of the papillary lines in the regions mentioned. In general the lines on the palm are parallel to the creases of opposition of the thumb, and to the creases of flexion of the fingers; but this arrangement is commonly modified in certain situations, *e. g.*, by loops continuing the transverse ridges of the fingers or (more often) starting from the interdigital spaces, by loops also on the thenar eminence, and by loops or more complex figures on the hypothenar eminence.

These arrangements—and analogous arrangements on the sole of the foot—have been interpreted as representative of prehuman conditions.