

during the sane intervals, so we meet with criminals, who, time after time, in a stereotyped way, will commit the same offence. In one case it is a disorder of thought, in the other a disorder of conduct, that rises suddenly out of the subconscious; it seems natural to assume that in both cases the psychological mechanism must be very similar. And the author would see further evidence of this kinship in the familiar cases where the two forms of disorder seem to alternate in the same individual, who then, according as his disease is more manifest in the sphere of thought or in the sphere of conduct, will find his way at one time to the lunatic asylum, at another to the prison.

In these cases of what he terms *délires à éclipse* and *délits à éclipse*, there is a subconscious automatism: in the dream-state of the epileptic, the absinthe drinker, and the alcoholic, the mechanism is the same, save that the automatism is unconscious; and it is the same also in the obsessions of the hereditary degenerate, with the sole difference that here the automatism is fully conscious and is accompanied by a lucid but powerless intelligence. Even the moral defective may be looked at in the same light, and viewed as an "aconscious automaton."

What, then, is the bearing of these facts on the problem that the criminal presents to society? If the personality is thus in a perpetual flux, where the dominant current at any moment may be decided by such incalculable forces working in the subconscious, what becomes of free will and responsibility, and how is their abrogation to be reconciled with the safety of the community? To these questions the author gives only a general reply, indicating merely the direction in which the solution of the problem is to be sought, but not entering into the details of the revolutionary changes which his doctrines would demand. The effect of slight indefiniteness which is thus left is possibly intentional, for it is not difficult to imagine that more than once in the course of these lectures the staid and respectable authorities of the *École de Droit* must have felt considerably astonished at their own audacity in admitting such heretical teaching at all, and that towards the end a little dilution of the new wine was necessary lest the old bottles should burst.

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#### *A New Journal of Legal Psychiatry.*

The appearance of the *Revue de Médecine Légale Psychiatrique et d'Anthropologie Criminelle* is an interesting indication of the increasing realisation in scientific circles in France of the importance of the medical aspects of criminology. The journal, which is published in connection with *L'Encephale*, is to appear every two months, the contents of each number being arranged under the following heads: (1) Original memoirs; (2) medico-legal observations; (3) judicial review; (4) bibliography and analysis of current literature; (5) proceedings of learned societies; and (6) medico-legal generalities. The editor in chief is M. Antheaume, of Charenton, and the list of collaborators includes the names of a large number of distinguished alienists and neurologists.

The first number (February, 1906), contains, amongst other interesting matter, a paper by Dr. Regis, on "Traumatic Neurasthenia in the Sub-

jects of Arterio-sclerosis," and the first of a series of articles by Dr. Paul Serieux, on "Special Establishments for Criminal Lunatics in Germany."

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*Ueber Störungen des Handelns bei Gehirnkranken [On Derangements of Action in the Insane].* Von Prof. Dr. H. LIEPMANN. Berlin: 1905. Pp. 162, 8vo.

Although much attention has been bestowed upon disorders of speech under the headings of "aphasia" and "paraphasia," the different incapacities amongst the insane in the performance of designed actions have met with little attention. These have been considered in the present work under the title of "Apraxia." Hindrance to the execution of voluntary actions may be owing to many causes besides paralysis. There may be loss of the kinæsthetic sensation or the appreciation of the amount of effort required, or the loss of memory, or of motor conception, deranged association, the loss of attention and concentration, or the failure of a decreasing intellect to direct the complex machinery of the muscular system, or loss of the correct estimation of distances, cortical blindness and cortical deafness. These several conditions are carefully analysed and differentiated by the author, and examples cited from his own observation as well as from the descriptions of others, especially Professor Pick. The treatise is permeated by profound thought, and no one can read it without gaining clearer ideas on the subject.

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*Dott Montesano Guiseppè ; Avviamente all' Educazione e Istruzione dei Deficienti, Lezioni dettate nella Scuola Magistrale Ortofrenica di Roma e raccolte da Cesare de Felicis.* Rome: 1905.

This little book is designed for teachers in schools for idiots and imbeciles. It comprises the lessons given and the exercises pursued in the Training Institution at Rome, founded by the National League for the protection of deficient children, under the superintendence of Dr. Montesano. The lessons have been collected by Cesare de Felicis. The authors give a list of a score of books in French, English, and German, upon idiocy and imbecility, by the aid of which further study on the subject may be pursued. They warn the reader that little or nothing can be found in these works having a practical interest for the teacher. It is true that many, or most, of the writers cited have been content to indicate in a more or less cursory manner the divers methods of exercising the minds of such children and the apparatus useful for this purpose. The ways of effecting this education are devious; much must be left to the invention of the teacher, which should be constantly on the alert. Yet it may be acknowledged that in no work known to us has a well chosen course of instruction been so minutely and literally laid down. The book comprises seventy pages, double columns, medium octavo. At the same time, the general remarks about the intellectual