

recommended by Siemerling save that under some circumstances he recommends lumbar punctures when there are symptoms of meningitis.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

Criminality in Sardinian Lunatics [La delinquenza negli alienati sardi].
(*Arch. di Psichiat.*, vol. xxv, fasc. i—ii, 1904.) Sanna-Salaris.

The author analyses 62 cases—55 men and 7 women—of lunatics who had committed criminal offences and were sent for observation to his asylum.

He draws the following conclusions from his study :

1. Though it is true that the same form of delinquency is common to the different varieties of insanity, it is none the less a fact that the grave offences are more generally committed by two special categories of lunatics—epileptics and paranoiacs.

2. As the race exercises a conspicuous influence in determining the nature of the delinquency and the criminal proclivity, the crimes committed by the insane are found to resemble in character those of the sane population to which the insane criminals belong : criminal tendencies are most marked in the insane in districts where sane crime is most frequent.

3. A large number of the individuals examined presented somatic stigmata of degenerescence, the minimum being among the paranoiacs, the maximum among the epileptics and the imbeciles.

4. Among the patients, delirious ideas, either paranoiac or merely the exaggeration of superstition, were very frequent, and, alone or with other influences, were one of the chief motives of crime.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

The criminality of the insane [Della criminalità nei pazzi]. (*Il Manicomio*, anno xix, No. 3, 1903.) Angioletta.

The author discusses the relation between insanity and crime, basing his views on the study of a series of criminal lunatics in the Nocera asylum. The number of such cases admitted in ten years was 115, which, compared with the total male receptions in the same period, gave a proportion of 3.99 per cent. The number actually under treatment is 81, being 9.96 per cent. of the daily average of male patients. These proportions, the author points out, though high, when it is borne in mind how the presence of such cases must interfere with the order and discipline of a general asylum, are extremely low considering the current ideas of the criminal tendencies of the insane.

Of the 115 cases 68 were lunatics who had committed crimes, and 47 were criminals who had become insane in prison.

Of the former category 33, or nearly half, were epileptics in the wide sense of the Italian school ; 15 others were paranoiacs ; 13 moral idiots ; while recurrent mania and chronic mania accounted for two each, and hebephrenia, lypomania and hallucinatory delirium for one each. Thus criminal tendencies were chiefly associated with the insanities arising on a basis of degenerescence, and were hardly found at all in the pure psychoneuroses.

Moreover, except in cases of paranoia, there is very rarely any

apparent connection between the mental disease and the criminal act : of the twelve epileptics, for instance, who had actual convulsive attacks only six committed their offences in the dream state. And, though in cases of paranoia the victim of the lunatic's violence is generally the villain of his delusions, the interpretation of this fact is not, the author holds, that the insanity caused the crime, but rather that the aptitude for both lay in the individual's nature. The anomaly of character, in fact, which is the potentiality of paranoia has considerable affinity with the essential anomaly of the moral lunatic and the criminal. And a further proof of this is found in the fact that the typical insanity of the criminal in prison is of paranoiac form : in the 47 cases, for instance, of insane prisoners in the author's series, all but four were cases of paranoia. The author maintains, therefore, that in general there is little real difference between criminal lunatics and lunatic criminals : both are criminals with a psychopathic aptitude, and it is a question of environment and of the strength of the insane as compared with the criminal tendency whether crime or lunacy appears first.

Details of a number of the cases are given, as well as tables showing for the whole series the relation of the form of delinquency to the form of insanity, the distribution of the cases in the several provinces, the cranial characters of the individuals, etc.

As regards the character of the delinquency, the series showed the usual predominance of homicidal offences, 78 out of the 115 being of this nature, while there were only eight crimes of acquisitiveness and four of lust. Special note is made of the fact that criminal tendencies seem to be more prevalent with paranoia than with epilepsy, there being 46 paranoiacs as against 19 epileptics among the homicides. And this is confirmed on comparing the criminal with the non-criminal inmates of the asylum, the proportion of criminal paranoiacs to paranoiacs in general being considerably higher than that of criminal epileptics to all epileptics.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

5. Treatment of Insanity.

Of the Placing of the Insane under Restraint and of the Powers of the Police to Intervene [Du placement des aliénés et de l'intervention des commissaires de police]. (Prog. Med., April 16th, 1904, p. 253.) Bourneville.

M. Bourneville, together with a growing number of alienists, pleads for the recognition of the asylum as a hospital for mental disease and the more ready admission of patients into asylums, the legal formalities having been duly effected.

In France, the insane patient can be placed under care either by the voluntary act of the relations (*placement volontaire*) or through the agency of the police (*placement d'office*). M. Bourneville urges that all admissions under care should be by *placement volontaire*, with the exception of those cases in which the police have had to arrest or take into custody the lunatic. He further draws attention to a serious flaw