Original Research in Epilepsy.

The Craig Colony Prize on the above subject, particulars of which are printed in "Notes and News," has been awarded in the present year to Professor Carlo Ceni, of Pavia. Mention of his essay on "Serotherapy in Epilepsy" is made in the "Italian Retrospect," and its publication will be awaited with interest.

Epilepsy is so great a factor in our large asylums that it is to be hoped some of the medical officers of those institutions will undertake research in this direction, not only for the sake of science but for the honour of British psychiatry.

Psychology—Normal and Morbid.

We heartily congratulate Dr. Mercier on the publication of his *magnum opus*. We hope that it will be read by every physician engaged in the practice of our specialty, and meanwhile refer our readers to the admirable review of this important work by Dr. Leslie Mackenzie, which will be found in this number of the JOURNAL.

Part II.—Reviews.

The Fifty-fifth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy for England, July 1st, 1901.

THE Report states that the total number of lunatics within the knowledge of the Commission on January 1st, 1901, was 107,944, and this leads us to re-utter the protest as to the practice of taking a censal estimate of the insane annually, therefrom to draw deductions. Is not such an estimate altogether a false basis on which to build arguments? The diminished increase—that of 1333 as compared with that of 1525 last year—is regarded as a "satisfactory condition"! Is it imagined that were this census taken every June, for example, the same differential variations would be obtained? Previous annual reports have proved that the incidence of insanity, so far as was justifiable by deductions from the number of insane reported as such to the Lunacy Office, showed remarkably irregular seasonal variations, and yet a date is selected and a census taken thereon so as to compare it with a similar censal estimate on the same date of another year. It is just as valuable a piece of information as the statistics supplied by the daily press of the tonnage of vessels passing through the Suez Canal on any one day

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.76 Published online by Cambridge University Press