Centralblatt für Anthropologie, Ethnologie, und Urgeschichte. Herausgegeben von Dr. (phil. et med.) G. BUSCHAN. Jahrgang 1899, Heft 1, Jena.

There is one original article in this number dealing with brachycephalic heads. A great deal of trouble has been taken in measuring and giving Greek names to the various shapes of skulls, with small results. Gustav Retzius, the son of the celebrated ethnologist of Stockholm, complained that the study of the crania of the different races is without doubt one of the most sterile of scientific researches. Dr. Wilser thinks that this is owing in Europe to the mixture of races, of which the varying forms of the heads in the same country afford a proof. The *résumés* collected from a wide field are full of interest. The reports of societies and congresses dealing with anthropology and ethnology, with reviews of books and lists of publications, join to make up an instructive number.

Protection from Lunatics and Non-restraint.

Dr. Hermann Kornfeld, of Grottkau (*Zeitschrift für Medicinalbeamte*, Heft 7, 1898), discusses two murders committed by lunatics, which have caused great sensation. The first was the murder of an actor by Richard Prince, and Dr. Kornfeld quotes a passage from the *Saturday Review*, in which the journalist complains that practising physicians are generally ignorant of the forms and types of insanity. "Progressive systematic delusions like those of Prince," observes the *Saturday Review*, "is, in spite of its enormous frequency in England, so little studied that the delusions of persecution and grandeur appear as something quite new to the majority of physicians." Dr. Kornfeld is anxious to know what English physicians will say to this. One questions whether they have as yet said anything. The scribes of the *Saturday Review* are paid for barking, but nobody thinks it worth while to throw stones at them. Certainly no one suffers more from the delusions of suspicion than physicians in charge of the insane. If men are unjustly convicted in the law courts, which happens not unfrequently, we rarely hear anything against the lawyers or proposals for new laws; but on the slightest rumour of a person unjustly detained for insanity, even for a few days, there are shouts against the doctors, and cries for new lunacy bills and new regulations, and formalities which often make the admission of lunatics to asylums so difficult that the public safety is endangered.

The other case mentioned by Dr. Kornfeld is the murder of the Marquis Berardi, who was killed when inspecting an asylum at Rome by a lunatic who had tools in his hand. The director of the asylum, Professor Bonfigli, the resident physician, and two keepers were put upon their trial for culpable negligence, but acquitted. Dr. Kornfeld considers the *pro* and *con.* between no restraint, free work, and open

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doors, and the dangers to the physicians and attendants on the insane. He states that he has observed cases in which insane persons communicated their own delusions to the sane, and quotes the opinion of Bieberach, whose experience of boarding out lunatics in families at Hofbeuren, in spite of sharp medical control, was unfavourable; hence he concludes that boarding out, in order to relieve the overcrowding of asylums, is in Germany to be rejected.

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(1) *Zur Eröffnung der psychiatrischen Klinik an der Landesuniversität, Giessen* (*The Opening of the Psychiatrical Clinique at the State University of Giessen*). Von Professor SOMMER, Giessen. (*Correspondenzblatt der ärztlichen Vereine des Grossh. Hessen*, Jahrg. vi, 1896, Nos. 3 u. 4.)

(2) *Une Visite à la Clinique Psychiatrique de Giessen* (*A Visit to the Psychiatrical Clinique at Giessen*). Par le Dr. P. LADAME, de Genève. (*Annales médico-psychologiques*, Nov. to Dec., 1899.)

The credit for being first to establish psychiatrical cliniques belongs to France rather than to Germany. The latter country entered somewhat late in the movement, which began about the beginning of our century at Salpêtrière, under the auspices of Pinel and Esquirol. The study of mental diseases in Germany took a new lease of life from Griesinger, the influence of whose career has been felt in all countries. The views of Griesinger triumph to-day more especially in his native land, and as years have gone by, more and more of the chief universities of Germany have established psychiatrical cliniques—Heidelberg in 1878, Leipzig in 1882, Strasbourg in 1886, Fribourg in 1887, Halle in 1891, Wurzbourg in 1893, and finally Giessen in 1896, to which we propose more particularly to direct attention.

The University of Giessen was founded in 1607, and is pleasantly situated to the south-east of the town of Seltersberg, and forms a veritable medical village. The new psychiatrical clinique has been built in close proximity to the other cliniques, thus differing from most other asylums, which, on account of their isolation, are of little use for the purposes of teaching and research. In spite, however, of this close proximity, the psychiatrical clinique has a separate and independent management, necessary for the State care of the insane, and only borrows electricity for purposes of illumination, and makes use of the central dispensary for medicinal remedies.

The asylum is mainly built on the "pavilion" system, although several important parts are connected by corridors, and the evils of a pure "pavilion" system are also somewhat remedied by extensive telephonic communications.

The asylum consists of the following buildings:

1. A central block, containing on the ground-floor the administrative offices and the "policlinique" (out-patients), which is mainly for mild cases, generally called "nervous," and which are instructive when compared with real cases of mental disease with their manifold nervo-

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