Although it does not really belong to the field of psychiatrical progress, being the direct development in a practical field of the school of criminal anthropology of Professor Lombroso, I think it will be useful to announce that Dr. Ottolenghi, professor of legal medicine at the University of Sienne, has just started near the Ministry of the Interior at Rome a "course of scientific police lectures," which will help to give to the policemen who are commencing their career, difficult as well as delicate, the most essential principles of biology, anthropology, and psychology, using also the practical teachings of the most clever and celebrated policemen. The object is to make young policemen understand the rational method of application of scientific facts practically (leaving aside all theory), and especially their application to criminals and to the manifestations of their criminality. It is a school which differs completely in its object and in the means it employs from the "Bertillonage" of Paris, and which can certainly give excellent results which it will be hurtful to ignore.

It will doubtless still more interest the readers of the JOURNAL to know that the pupils and admirers of the great scientific work of Camilo Golgi have collected in three great volumes, under the title of *Opera omnia*, all the works of this indefatigable investigator, who has opened the gates of histological examination of the nervous system. There are twenty-nine papers, which occupy 1257 pages, illustrated by fifty-one plates, and which represent the life-work of a man who has deserved well not only of his own country, but of science at large.

(1) The next congress of the Società Freniatrica Italiana, which will be held at Genoa in 1904, will have for discussion a paper on "The Assumption by the State of the Care of the Insane."

SPAIN.

By W. COROLEN.

Dr. Giné's most regrettable decease has been a great blow to Spanish psychiatry, the well-known professor being a pioneer of progress and an apostle for phrenopathic teaching. He was the first to give clinical lectures on insanity at his asylum of New Bethlem, and one of the rare Spanish authors in this subject. At the present time no course of mental diseases is provided in our universities. Dr. Vera in Madrid, Dr. Galcerán in Barcelona, and a few others have given occasional lectures and practical demonstrations, but this year, unfortunately, even this little contribution has been denied to Spanish students. Street riots have postponed the compulsory *curricula* of dermatology and ophthalmology. The poor science of Pinel and Esquirol, Pritchard and Crichton-Browne, because of its absence from the scheme of improvement, could not even be postponed. A few scattered ideas emanating from the chair of forensic medicine are the only material furnished to the future practitioners. That such a state of things is very reprehensible all agree, but nobody takes the steps which would put an end to it.

A most satisfactory advance has been made by Drs. Galcerán and Rz. Morini by the publication of the new *Phrenopathical Review*. The

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aspect of the little journal is humble, and its aims are not very lofty, but it will be, however, of good service to physicians who need a brief and accurate account of phrenopathic subjects. A well-reasoned article by Dr. Galcerán about Siscar's case has excited much interest. Siscar, who murdered his mother, was tried by jury as responsible for his actions, but several experts maintained him to be a moral imbecile.

Public outcry resulted in a sanitary campaign in St. Baudilius's Asylum, where the lunatics died like flies from typhoid fever. The investigation showed a deplorable state of the water-supply in the establishment, and ended in effective improvements. We should not leave the question of lunatic asylums without mentioning the opening of a new asylum at Reus (Tarragona province), where the most modern requirements are provided. The asylum, a remarkable work of Sen. Domenech Montaner, one of the best Spanish architects, will be much appreciated in Spain, where the number of asylums is so small, actually people from all provinces come to Leganés, near Madrid, or to St. Baudilius or Holy Cross Hospital Asylum, which is very expensive.

The statistics for insanity in Spain have not yet been published. The last census, in 1887, did not refer to them. This year the Statistical Institute proposed to bring together and print the particular intelligences of lunatic asylums. With reference to the Holy Cross Hospital, the average number of patients is 250 men and 300 women. Alcohol is not here so prominent a factor in the causation of mental disease as in Northern Europe. Syphilis, which increases yearly, explains the great number of general paralytics. Epilepsy is also very frequent. The clergy and navy contribute largely to insanity as well as business men and artisans. The average middle class is not so much affected as the higher classes. This year three descendants of noble Catalonian families have been sentenced for robbery and murder, Siscar amongst them. The lower classes show an increase, owing to the frequency of strikes, the industrial crisis, and the over-population of the great metropolis.

Despite the eloquent work of Dr. Xalabarder on criminal lunatic asylums, urging their adoption in Spain, nothing has been done nor even projected in this direction. The aged Minister for Justice, Montilla, introduced, however, the Crofton system in prisons. The first plans (1859) of the Holy Cross Hospital provided this important section. Years passed away; Dr. Pi Molist, the founder of the model establishment, died, and with him the section alluded to. The new asylum is almost finished at St. Andrew's, a suburb of Barcelona, and it makes *no* provision for criminal lunatics. Neither the authorities nor the Institution of Charity have thought of this dangerous class of alienated. It must, however, be borne in mind that there is the Durán Asylum for unruly children, which is due to the philanthropy of the late millionaire of that name.

No books on mental science have marked this year. The student must content himself with perusing those already published, and with reading translations. These, by-the-bye, are not numerous in Spain, owing, as the printers say, "to the little interest taken by the public." Is not "the dislike of the public" in a large measure ascribable to the scantiness of modern and valuable mental scientific treatises?

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