Crime and general paralysis.—Dr. Pactet reported a case of a general paralytic in the Villejuif Asylum who killed an attendant on March 20th of the present year. He has observed several other cases of murder and assault perpetrated by individuals suffering from this disease, and he considers that there are many general paralytics who do not deserve the good reputation that such patients at present enjoy.

Judging from these cases, therefore, Dr. Briand and Dr. Christian think that general paralytics may be considered to be dangerous lunatics.

Dr. Marie reported the case of a female general paralytic who used to strike violently with a small sock full of sand the idiots and dements for snoring in her dormitory. He has also observed many attempts at suicide on the part of these patients, and accordingly he concludes that general paralytics are dangerous and ought to be carefully watched.

Dr. Gimbal also reported the case of a midwife, now presenting well-marked signs of general paralysis, who, eighteen months ago, perpetrated a crime at a time when no one suspected that she was not in the full enjoyment of all her faculties. Called to a woman in labour, she delivered the patient and afterwards perforated the uterus and dragged the intestines out of the abdomen.

GERMANY.

By Dr. J. Bresler.

In my last Annual Report I drew attention to the efforts that were being made to erect *sanatoria for nervous disorders* occurring in patients of the lower classes. These efforts are being continued. The Rhenish Society for Public Sanatoria having received a grant of 100 acres has already completed one of the several institutions it proposes to erect. The city of Essen also is about to build such a house, having received a large donation for this purpose from one of its citizens. A Society for building *nerve-sanatoria* has been formed in the Grand Duchy of Baden, which, with the already promised aid of the Government, will shortly begin work. I would here emphasise the importance of early treatment as a prophylactic measure in nervous cases, and point out that it is the duty of alienist physicians to enlist the interest of the charitable, that those afflicted may be able to take advantage of institutional treatment.

At the Annual Meeting of the German Society of Psychiatry, held at Göttingen, April, 1904, the *relation of psychiatry to neurology* was fully discussed by Prof. Fürstner of Strassburg. He mentioned that as long as forty years ago the great psychiatrist Griesinger urged the amalgamation of these two branches of medical science, whilst to-day there were many who were opposed to this union. Many nervous diseases, such as the traumatic neuroses, hypochondriasis, hysteria, epilepsy, etc., come within the province of the psychiatrist. The separation of psychiatry and neurology is an artificial one. In many nerve cases the anomalies of temper, intellect, and volition are the leading charac-

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teristics. An exclusively psychiatrical clinic gives to the student a wrong impression of the psychical troubles he will meet with in practice. A study of boundary cases is of great importance in experimental psychology.

Hoche spoke on the *Classification and Nomenclature of the Psychoses* with regard to medical examinations. The disagreement of alienists with regard to nomenclature causes difficulties for the examiner and the student. But these difficulties are only apparent; an examiner should understand the language of other teachers and be able to determine, irrespective of the nomenclature adopted, whether or not the candidate possesses sufficient knowledge to satisfy the requirements of the regulations: nevertheless having regard to this aspect of the case it would be well if writers on psychiatry would hesitate before introducing a new terminology. In that most important matter for the practitioner, the psychopathic symptomatology, an agreement of examiners is practicable. (In Germany psychiatry will shortly be included in the curriculum for the student.)

Another Society of Alienists and Jurists was founded at Giessen in 1904 by Prof. Sommer (Alienist) and Prof. Mittermaier (Jurist). At the first meeting of the Society Prof. Mittermaier spoke on the reform of the penal laws, while Prof. Sommer dealt with the value to be attached to the depositions of witnesses. I would strongly recommend the formation of similar societies to my colleagues in other lands.

As an indication that the progress of the studies of experimental psychology is intimately connected with the progress of scientific psychiatry, I may mention that the first Congress of Experimental Psychology was held, in April, 1904, at Giessen, under the presidency of Prof. Müller and Prof. Sommer, of Giessen. In the psychiatric clinic at Giessen a demonstration of psychophysics instruments was given to the members of the Congress. We hope that experimental psychology will afford exact methods for the clinical investigation of normal and abnormal mental activity. The next meeting will be held at Wurtzburg in 1905.

Finally, I have to report the opening of the new Psychiatric Clinic at Munich, by Prof. Kraepelin, in November last. It contains 100 beds, and will receive from 1500 to 2000 patients yearly. The services of fourteen physicians will be employed, and the ratio of attendants to patients will be one to three. The treatment by prolonged hot baths will be freely tried, the number of baths to patients being one to four. The Clinic is fully provided with all the scientific instruments necessary for psychophysical, chemical, anatomical, and electrical studies.

The treatment of states of excitement by prolonged baths, which was introduced in France more than fifty years ago, but soon discontinued, has now for more than ten years been revived in Germany, and we find, both in the newly erected asylums and in those of older date, ample accommodation for carrying out this treatment, which has been adopted a far as possible in lieu of sedative drugs and seclusion.

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