a sufficient number of facial and cranial abnormalities to attach the originals to the "criminal type" of Lombroso. His conclusion that this type exists in Russian criminals is thus in contradiction to the opinion of Orchansky, who, though apparently a believer in the "reo-nato" in other countries, found that stigmata of degeneracy were not more frequent in Russian prisoners than in the free population.

The paper is illustrated by a plate reproducing six of the photographs.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

The Question of Genius [*La questione del genio*]. (*Il Manicomio, fasc. i*, 1900.) *Del Greco, F.*

Lombroso's theory of the dependence of genius on degeneracy has lately been the subject in Italy of renewed discussion, arising out of the studies of the Turin school on the physical and mental state of Giacomo Leopardi.

In this paper Del Greco contributes to the debate a critical study of the scope and limitations of the anthropological method in the investigation of genius. While sympathetically disposed towards Lombroso's views, he pleads for the adoption of a broader standpoint, for the admission as essential of other methods beside the purely anthropological, and for the recognition of the complex nature of the problems involved. Granting that the facts cited by Patrizi, Sergi, and Lombroso prove that Leopardi was in physique, mind, and temperament a degenerate, and supposing that a large number of men of genius resembled the pessimist poet in these respects, the interpretation of the connection of genius and degeneracy cannot follow directly. The problem must be examined from the *biological* side, when it must be asked whether genius implies phenomena of excessive organic development, and, if so, how far it may be expected that such progressive changes should be accompanied by compensatory defects in the development of other organs. Again, the question must be viewed from the *psychological* side when we have to investigate in what manner and degree the degenerate conditions contribute to the genesis of the mental states involved in genius. Only when the method of Lombroso is associated with inquiry on the biological and psychological lines can it yield sound results. Further, it must be borne in mind that even if proved to be closely connected with degenerate and morbid conditions, genius is not thereby stamped as in itself pathological. A phenomenon not *per se* prejudicial to the organism in which it occurs need not be morbid because it depends on morbid antecedents. Much of the confusion in this and other questions has arisen from the erroneous conception of an opposition in kind between the normal and the pathological.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

2. Neurology.

The Perinuclear Zone in the Nerve-cell [*La zona perinucleare nella cellula nervosa*]. (*Ann. di Neurol., fasc. ii*, 1900.) *Colucci, C.*

Donaggio, in a recent work, drew attention to a zone surrounding the nucleus in the nerve-cell. It did not stain, and he considers it a part

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of the canalicular system for the nourishment of the cell and nucleus. In this paper Colucci draws attention to the fact that he has previously described a similar condition as the perinuclear "halo." While the histological fact of its presence may now be taken as proved, he is not altogether prepared to accept Donaggio's conclusions as regards its function without further investigation. J. R. GILMOUR.

On the Functional Relations of the Pituitary Gland with the Thyro-parathyroid Apparatus [*Sui rapporti funzionali della glandola pituitaria coll' apparecchio tiro-paratiroideo*]. (*Riv. sperim. di Freniat., vol. xxvi, fasc. ii, iii.*) *Caselli, A.*

This is an experimental research in which the glands were removed in various combinations, and the effects noted. In the first series of cases, where the pituitary and parathyroids were removed at the same time, the animals so treated died in from three to four days, without developing the usual symptoms of tetany. As the author could not exclude the possibility of a fifth parathyroid being present in these cases, in the second series he removed the parathyroids, and after tetany had developed he performed hypophysectomy. This series demonstrated that the removal of the pituitary modified profoundly the symptoms resulting from the parathyroidectomy. Within four hours the tetany, the tachycardia, and the tachypnœa had ceased. A day after, paralysis of the limbs set in, followed by coma and death two days later. In the next set of cases, where the thyroids were removed after the pituitary, it was found that this resulted in an aggravation of the usual symptoms after thyroidectomy, without alteration of the characteristic symptoms, but with acceleration of their course. The fact that extirpation of the pituitary acts in a similar way to the removal of the thyroid in animals deprived of the parathyroids seems to show an identity of function and a strict relationship between these two glands.
J. R. GILMOUR.

Relation between Epileptic Fits and Auto-intoxication [*Rapporto tra accessi epilettici ed auto-intossicazione*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat., vol. xxi, fasc. vi.*) *Roncoroni, L.*

The author discusses the published researches on the toxicity of the urine, blood, sweat, and gastric juice in epileptics; and contributes a record of personal observations regarding the toxicity of the urine.

The results of different workers on this subject have been very discordant. Féré and d'Abundo found the toxicity of the urine diminished after a fit; Voisin and Petit found it increased after and diminished before the fit; Chiaruttini found it increased immediately before and after, as well as during the attack, but normal in the intervallary period; while Mairet and Vires found constant hypotoxicity in their patients, and Agostini constant hypertoxicity in his. Deny and Chouppe, Tamburini and Vassale, Bleile and Herter, in their experiments got inconstant results. Investigations into the toxicity of the other fluids have been equally unsatisfactory. Those observers who assert the hypertoxicity of the fluids in epileptics are unable to assign it to any particular constituent or constituents.

The author indicates the sources of fallacy, some of which are

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