writer to writer, has grown in magnitude and become an accepted fact. The anti-cigarette crusade culminated in 1892 in a petition to Congress for a heavy tax on the article, the petitioners alleging that for the deaths of "100" boys under sixteen in the previous year, and for the presence of "100" men in the lunatic asylums, the cigarette was responsible. The writer comments upon the attractiveness which such round numbers have to those only superficially informed, and goes to considerable pains to demonstrate the entire lack of any scientific investigation in support of these vehement endeavours to place the cigarette into a prominent place in the domain of toxicology. Science, he says, as a matter of fact finds a unanimous verdict in favour of the luxury. In corroboration of this he quotes the findings of men of repute both in America and this country, which show that the fillings of samples purchased in the open market contain no morphine, strychnine, or other drug foreign to tobacco; that the latter is of "bright Virginia," which contains only from 1 to 1½ per cent. of nicotine, while 8½ per cent. may be found in the best brands of domestic cigars; and that the wrappers yield no trace of arsenic, white-lead, or other poison. The writer disclaims any wish to assert that tobacco is innocuous; he only claims that science has proved that cigarettes are made of good tobacco.

ENGLISH RETROSPECT.

By Dr. Fleming.

The Therapeutic Value of Spleen Extract. By A. Campbell Clark, M.D. (*Edin. Med. Journ.*, February, 1898).—Dr. Clark gives the results of an investigation at Lanark County Asylum extending over a period of two years. The object aimed at was the cure or alleviation of mental disease, and was suggested by the frequency of splenic deficiency noted in asylum post-mortem records. Three classes of cases were submitted to treatment: 1. Those of an intractable character, *e. g.* chronic inertia. 2. Recent cases of insanity due to physical weakness, *e. g.* puerperal cases. 3. Selected cases suggested by treatment of the first two classes. He quotes the result of six out of thirty cases, and arrived at the following conclusions:—That splenic treatment (1) increases nutritive activity by aiding digestion and stimulating the glandular activity of the skin; (2) gives rise to striking mental changes, sometimes of an abnormal character—exhibition of temper in stuporose cases; elevation in shy and stupid cases, &c. Contrasted with thyroid treatment, spleen treatment was more phenomenal in its effects, more lasting and sure in its results, and exceedingly safe. He strongly recommended a preparatory course of spleen in any case where thyroid treatment was proposed.

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Hypnotism and Crime. By A. Stoddart Walker, M.B., F.R.C.P.E. (*Edin. Med. Journ.*, January, 1898).—Criticising a paper by Dr. Milne Bramwell "On the Evolution of the Hypnotic Theory," Dr. Walker discusses at some length the important question of the suggestion of crime. The results in his opinion depend on whether the suggestion involves the safety of the individual or not. He found that the hypnotised subject refused to commit an experimental crime without reason; but that, as a means of self-defence, the suggestion proved perfectly successful. He cites the example of a patient who doubted the suggestion when only warned that a certain person disliked him, but when told next day that the same person only waited for an opportunity to poison him, immediately acted on the suggestion.

Remarks on a Case of Porencephaly. By G. A. Gibson, M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed., and W. Aldren Turner, M.D., F.R.C.P.Lond. (*Edin. Med. Journ.*, February, 1898).—The following case is reported from an ætiological as well as pathological point of view. The patient, aged 22, was admitted into hospital in a status epilepticus, and died next morning. The history showed that the illness dated from birth. The labour had been tedious and difficult, and had required instruments, leading to injury of the patient's head. Three days after birth she had left-sided convulsions which passed off, but shortly it was found that she was paralysed in the left hand, and that there was asymmetry of the head. She was backward at school, and never learnt to write. While at school she developed convulsions, the fits increased in number and frequency, and after them she was almost insane. At the post-mortem the extremities were of equal length, but the circumference of the left was less than that of the right. The left half of the skull was much larger than the right. The frontal sinuses were large, and the skull itself thin. The middle and posterior fossæ on the left side were larger than those on the right. The right hemisphere of the brain weighed $5\frac{3}{4}$ ounces, and was partly cystic. The cyst consisted of the occipital lobe, the convolutions round the posterior end of the fissure of Sylvius, and the ventral part of the temporo-sphenoidal lobe. The gyri over the cystic portion, with the exception of the gyrus fornicatus, the tip of the temporo-sphenoidal lobe, and the paracentral lobule, were atrophied and replaced by fibrous tissue. The basal ganglia were also atrophied. As the cystic portion corresponded to the distribution of the posterior cerebral artery, the authors concluded that the primary lesion was probably thrombosis of that artery. The left half of the cerebellum was atrophied, showing a crossed cerebello-cerebral connection by way of the superior and middle peduncles. Sections of the pons and medulla showed partial atrophy of the mesial fillet on the right side, the internal fibres being least affected, supporting the view that the mesial fillet ends partly in the optic thalamus, and is partly continued direct to the cortex cerebri. There was partial

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atrophy of the right pyramidal tract. The paper was further illustrated by three excellent plates.

ITALY.

By W. Ford Robertson, M.D.

Bacteriological Researches in Acute Delirium.—The question of the relation of certain forms of acute mania to bacterial infection is one that has lately been brought prominently forward in this country. A recent paper by Ceni (*Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, 1897, Fasc. iv, p. 796), in which the observations that have been made upon the subject on the Continent are somewhat fully reviewed, may therefore merit notice here at some length.

For some time, he says, there has been an inclination to regard acute delirium as determined by either auto-intoxication or infection. Briand in 1881 was the first to observe organisms in the blood in such cases, and to contend that the condition was infective in origin. In 1884 Rezzonico described a case in which the vessels of the brain contained emboli of micrococci. In 1892 Buchholz observed bacilli and micrococci in preparations from one case, although cultures made from the blood remained sterile. About a year later Bianchi and Piccinino asserted that they had demonstrated experimentally the infective nature of acute delirium. They isolated from the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid of patients who died from the disease what they believed to be a specific form of bacillus. In some forms of acute mania they were unable to find this organism, and they concluded that among the forms of mental disease attended by acute delirium there is one to which we are entitled to give the name of "acute bacillary delirium." This form was distinguished from all others, according to the authors, not only bacteriologically, but also "by the greater intensity of the symptoms, by the adynamic phase which quickly follows that of excitement, by its very rapid course, and its fatal termination." Rasori shortly afterwards described another form of pathogenic bacillus which he found in the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid in a similar case. In 1895 Martinotti stated that he had been able to isolate from the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid of cases of acute delirium only some common organisms, staphylococci and micrococci, which, on the other hand, Bianchi and Piccinino had only been able to obtain from allied forms of mania. In 1896 Cabitto made a bacteriological examination of five cases which were clearly of the nature of acute primary delirium. He was unable to find any organism in the blood. In one case, however, he found in the liver and spleen an organism identical with that of Bianchi, and also the *Staphylococcus pyogenes albus*. It is thus evident that the observers who have investigated the

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