was insane, and disappeared in consequence of her morbid condition, and that her husband is innocent of the charge brought against him. This case created a very great sensation in America, and Dr. Christison sets forth his beliefs in a manner which induces confidence in his correctness.

The Ophthalmic Patient. By PERCY FRIDENBERG, M.D. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1900. Crown 8vo, pp. 312. Price 6*s.* 6*d.* net.

This little work will be found useful to students and nurses who wish to become acquainted with the recent advances in the management of ophthalmic cases, especially those requiring operation. It is written in a clear and lucid manner, and is well worthy of a careful perusal.

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Anthropology.

On the Permanence of the Cranio-pharyngeal Canal in Man [*Sulla permanenza del canale cranio-faringeo nell' uomo*]. (*Riv. sperim. di Freniat., vol. xxvi, fasc. ii, iii.*) *Caselli, A.*

THIS canal brings the pharyngeal vault into relation with the cavity of the sella turcica. It is permanent in certain of the lower animals; in man rarely so. Rossi found it only on nine occasions in 3700 crania. The author examined the collection of skulls from the insane in the Psychiatric Institute of Reggio—1300 in number,—and found it in 12 cases, 9 being females and 3 males. Externally the foramen is situated from 1 to 2 mm. behind the posterior angle of the vomer, and internally opens into the lowest point of the depression of the sella turcica, generally in the middle line. The openings, which are usually circular, vary from 2½ mm. in diameter, and give passage to a vein. In 43 other skulls, there were openings corresponding in situation which communicated with the sphenoidal sinus. The author regards its relative frequency in the insane as another example of degeneracy.

J. R. GILMOUR.

Russian Criminals and Lombroso's Theory [*I criminali russi e la teoria di C. Lombroso*]. (*Arch. di Psichiat., vol. xxi, fasc. iv.*) *Mariani.*

This paper is a study by a pupil of Lombroso of a series of twenty-seven photographs (full-face) of Russian criminals, twenty-two males and seven females. Beyond the name of the criminal and the nature of the offience in each case, no information accompanied the photographs.

The author describes each photograph in detail, and discovers in all

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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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