apparently speaks well, and shows no very palpable symptoms of insanity, should be an asylum inmate and not a prisoner. The prison officials, of course, consider the medical expert as a sort of modern body-snatcher, who breaks into their gaols to carry off the members of their flock. These worthies give most arbitrary evidence, stating that what is considered a symptom of insanity by medical men is only hardened vice and shamming. Observation in a prison cannot but be defective, and it is a pity, that in the modifications to be introduced in our penal laws, there should be no clause regulating this important matter. There can be no doubt that criminal anthropology must be taught at our medical schools, and should be studied by both jurists and physicians; this is the only way to obtain co-operation in these important sociological questions. That this want is keenly felt, is proved by the attendance of barristers and medical men at the lectures which are occasionally given.

ITALY.

By Dr. Guilio Cesare Ferrari.

I believe that, in beginning my annual report on the general conditions of psychiatry in Italy, it will, first of all, be useful to give an idea of the circumstances and surroundings in which we prosecute our studies, endeavouring not to be led by our admiration for those centres where the scientific movements form the motive force, into forgetfulness of those other centres, which are indeed less important as regards size, but which must often be credited with subjecting to an effective test the theories and hypotheses issuing somewhat prematurely from the larger centres.

The conditions of instruction in psychiatry vary much in various centres. Teaching presents in almost every nation a certain one-sidedness. Thus, while English and American psychiatry is by preference clinical and psychological, that of Germany has always been, and still is, by preference, histological; while the French has chiefly devoted itself to studies in psychical symptomatology, Italian psychiatry, since its resuscitation, has been absolutely eclectic. It has cultivated with the same zeal all branches of our specialty, and at the same time has thrown a brilliant light upon certain cognate subjects,—for example, upon penal science; whence has arisen a new branch intermediate between anthropology and criminology; the distinction resulting therefrom Italy may justly be proud of.

This character of eclecticism depends, however, only on a general impression, for if we look more closely into the matter, we see that (with the exception of the psychiatric institute at Reggio Emilia) the various centres follow one or other of various methods of study, according to the opportunities offered by the circumstances and surroundings of each.

The question of "environment" (circumstances and surroundings) reminds us of a fact which is very sad, but is inevitable, because it is connected with the economic development of Italy. In the great cities, psychiatry finds material for study outside asylums, and although our

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best professors are appointed to the charge of the asylums and the psychiatric clinics which are to be found there, yet it is but rarely that the young assistants can profit by these, bound as they are by the need of making money and looking after their practices.

This is what happens, for example, at Turin and Genoa, and in order to show what a loss Italian scientific work suffers from this economic condition, it is only requisite to mention that in these cities instruction is given respectively by Lombroso and by Morselli.

It is evident that psychiatry, like a great many other things, can best be studied in small towns, from the example shown by Reggio Emilia, the Psychiatric Institute of which, under the direction of Tamburini, Professor of Psychiatry in the neighbouring University of Modena, is the most highly valued centre of psychiatric culture which is to be found in Italy. The teaching given here truly answers to that designation of eclecticism, which is characteristic of Italian psychiatry.

This asylum, built in 1822, and having now a population of nearly 1000 patients,(1) clinical histories of whom have been carefully preserved in the archives for several decades past, presents very abundant clinical and statistical materials. It possesses also the best collection, in numbers at least, of skulls in Italy, and of instruments of the highest interest in the history of our specialty. But its proudest boast is the great series of scientific laboratories, dedicated to the great biologist of Reggio, Lazzaro Spallanzani, which most of the Italian clinics, and, indeed, almost all the asylums in Europe have reason to envy. To these laboratories a number of young physicians in constant succession come from all parts of Italy, and sometimes even from abroad, to study in the various departments, according to their particular bent. Thus we find prosecuted here, side by side, the study of anthropology (Vassale), investigations on the thyroid (Ceni, who is chiefly engaged on the study of auto-intoxications in mental diseases, Caselli. who recently died while he was finishing a very interesting work on the function of the pituitary body), neuropathology (Pastrowich), clinical psychiatry and normal and pathological psychology (Guicciardi, Ferrari),(2) and finally, clinical statistics (Fornasari di Verte). All this work is executed under the lofty and moderating influence of Professor Tamburini, who also edits the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, the journal which, for the last twenty-six years, has published the best scientific productions of Italy.(3)

Proceeding southwards we come to another scientific centre in the Psychiatric Institute of Florence, directed by Tanzi, Professor of Clinical Psychiatry. Lugaro is assistant at the clinic. His studies on the constitution of the nerve-cell enjoy among us a celebrity which is well deserved. They have, at least for several years past, given a direction to, and impressed a character upon all the scientific output of the Florentine clinic. On the same lines again Levi works, while Righetti is engaged on the clinical aspect of mental diseases, and Finzi works according to the psychological methods of Kräpelin, with whom he studied for several months.

The Florence Institute possesses a journal, the *Rivista Patologica Nervosa e Mentale*, which resembles the German *Centralblätter*. It has been always very full from the ætiological point of view, and it may

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be charged with a certain degree of one-sidedness. Now, however, it is being modified.

Going still further south, we come to Rome, where the asylum is directed by Bonfigli, who is also Professor of Clinical Psychiatry. He is engaged on the question of backward and deficient children, to which we shall again revert. The scientific movement of our specialty is directed by Mingazzini, Professor of Neuropathology, and Pathological Anatomist to the Asylum, who is able to communicate his powerful energy to a crowd of young workers (Giannelli, Schupfer, Dionisi, etc.). They almost all pursue a severe anatomo-pathological and clinical method, and their works, always very carefully laboured, are published in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, or in some German journal, particularly in *Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie*.

At Rome we also find Dr. de Sanctis, whose works on general and clinical psycho-pathology have obtained for him a very distinguished name. This year he has been entirely occupied with backward children, and we shall later on have occasion to speak of his intelligent and meritorious work. His papers are published in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*. His last publication was a volume on Dreams,(4) which was very favourably received by the critics.

The anatomical method is specially followed in Naples at the clinic directed by Professor Bianchi, who is about to publish a large treatise on Mental Diseases; and while Colucci is studying degenerations consecutive to enucleation of the eyeball, Fraguite is endeavouring to ascertain the embryological constitution of the nerve-cell; both researches of the greatest interest. Their works are published in two journals, the *Annali di Nervologia*, and the *Giornale dell' Associazione fra Medici e Naturalisti*.

There are, besides, at Naples, other physicians in private practice who give much attention to psycho-pathology.

At a point a little more remote, we find in the interprovincial asylum of Nocera Inferiore a considerable number of young physicians, who pursue clinical methods with such activity that they are able alone to keep up a journal (*Il Manicomio*) which is actually published in the asylum. We may mention (besides that of the Director, Dr. Ventre) the names of Del Greco (a very good psychologist who came from the Psychiatric Institute at Reggio), Fronda, Angiolella, Caddi, and de Cesare.

Next comes the asylum of Aversa, directed by one of the most learned men in our specialty, Caspare Virgilio, who with certain clever ideas in the domain of anthropology has even anticipated Lombroso. His assistants pursue his work, but they have brought out nothing of interest in 1900.

Work is much more close and more generalised in another asylum in the North of Italy, that of Ferrara—where for the last two years a journal has also been published, the *Bollettino del Manicomio di Ferrara*,—and which is directed by Professor Tambroni (a pupil of Reggio), and where the Director and Drs. Cappelletti, Vedroni, and Lambronzi labour with the greatest spirit, and the finest results. The clinical method is followed here.

The same tale can be told of the asylum at Brescia, directed by

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Seppilli, former collaborateur with Luciani in his work on cerebral localisation, and pupil of the asylum of Reggio (a veritable nursery of alienists). Drs. Lui and Tonoli work with Seppilli according to the clinical methods.

I should also mention that the asylum at Turin is directed by Marro (who has recently published a very interesting work on Puberty). Pellizzi and Tirelli work with him, and they specially follow the anatomo-pathological method. The works of Pellizzi on Idiocy are very remarkable. They publish a journal—the *Annali di Freniatria.*

Among isolated workers in our specialty, the following deserve special mention :—Antonini, for the past year Director of the asylum at Voghera, whose name is well-known and highly valued in science. He is at present engaged at the laws of the distribution of insanity in the department of Pavia, and he is revealing the most curious and interesting laws with regard to the evolution of lunatic asylums. Obici, Assistant at the Psychiatric Clinic of Padua; Agostini, of Perugia; Pieraccini, of Macerata; Cristiani, of Lucca, etc.

It is evident, then, that psychiatry can reckon in Italy a great number of followers who are wholly devoted to this subject. This is the more remarkable, seeing that the Government has completely forgotten the requirements of alienists. It is sufficient for me to mention two facts—(1) During the last ten years it has been impossible to pass the *laws on lunatic asylums*, which every Ministry has postponed, and which are required to regulate, in a uniform manner throughout the whole of Italy, the relations between the directors and the administrators of asylums. (2) Preparations are being made for a census of Italy, which will begin in next February. Now we might expect to be able to obtain exact information as to the number of lunatics, of deaf-mutes, of cretins, and of the blind. But this cannot be obtained. Why? Probably nobody will ever know.

The only really useful thing which it has been possible to obtain from the Government has been the combination of instruction in psychiatry with instruction in neuropathology—a combination which we owe to the Minister Bacelli. This is all, and it is not much.

The question which is now more than ever under discussion is the overcrowding of asylums. It was calculated in 1874 that there were in Italy 12,000 lunatics; in 1898 they were reckoned 36,800. The various departments have expended in 1897 14,000,000 lire on the care of the insane. But this is not enough, for there are in confinement in Italy 4000 patients more than the asylums can contain.

On this account there are now being built, or it is proposed to build, a great number of asylums, so that each department may have one. But in the meantime the existing institutions must be enlarged, or other means must be adopted.

At Reggio Emilia it is contemplated to institute a "hospice" for dements, and a colony for epileptics; but in the meantime Tamburini has endeavoured to establish something analogous to the family care of the insane which exists at Gheel, in Belgium.

When a patient is chronic, quiet, and clean, and there is no member of his family to look after him, he is committed to the care of a family who live in the vicinity of the asylum, preferably the family of a former

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asylum attendant. A family is allowed to keep two male or two female patients. One lira and a quarter is paid for each patient *per diem*, and the patients must be supplied with everything and kept clean. They work if they wish, but they cannot be compelled to work. This method has only been in existence for two years, but it promises very well, and in a short time we shall have at San Maurizio a village of the type of Gheel and Lierneux.

At Brescia they endeavour to meet the enormous overcrowding by the discharge of all patients as soon as improvement appears.

I am glad to conclude this report on what is being done for the insane among us with a word about the institutions for imbeciles which are arising, on the noble initiation of Professor Bonfigli, at Rome, Bologna, Florence, and Milan, and which will be soon completed; for there are certain questions which must be solved, once they are put. The honour of being the soul of this movement in Rome is due to Dr. de Sanctis, who for the last two years has devoted himself altogether to this noble task.

There has also been established an institution for imbeciles at San Giovanni, in Persiclo, near Bologna. It is directed by well-known alienists (Roncati, Tamburini, and Brugia); but the man who has most closely identified himself with it is a young physician devoted to the new experimental teaching—Dr. Pezzoli, who has established at his own expense a laboratory of experimental teaching, the only one which exists in Italy, and who applies his methods of teaching to the backward children who are sent to San Giovanni, in Persiclo, from the departments of Bologna, Modena, Reggio, Parma, etc.

This noble example of devotion to science and charity suggests to us the last word of this report. May this example be followed! and then psychiatry will not be unworthy of that new Italy which now at last is making such prodigious efforts towards its further development.

(1) For an account of the wonderful development of this institute and its present conditions see Tamburini's illustrated pamphlet—*Il Frenocomio di Reggio Emilia*, Calderini, Reggio Emilia, 1900.—(2) I have just completed a translation of *The Principles of Psychology*, by William James, which will be published by the Societa Editrice Libraria, Milan.—(3) The general index for the first twenty-five years will appear shortly.—(4) *De Sanctis*, I. Sogni, Bocca, Torina, 1900.

Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

On the Physiological Action of the Thymus and of the Thyroid: Experimental Research [*Sull'azione fisiologica del timo e della tiroidina*]. (*Il Manicomio, fasc. i and ii*, 1899.) *Ventra and Angiolella.*

In this research, thyroid and thymus substance in tabloid form were

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