physician of the asylum should decide whether a patient should be admitted. The decision of any other person is not to be commended. To prevent unjustifiable detention, in addition to rigorous Government control, the most efficient means is the immediate appointment of a guardian for every case admitted against his will. The Solicitor-General should be charged with the official protection of all lunatics. Patients should be discharged as soon as possible, and the law must see that no patient is detained for any reason other than is scientific and psychiatric. Shortness of accommodation or funds should not occasion the premature discharge of patients still needing treatment. There must be a sufficient number of expert members or Inspection Boards.

In conclusion, it is hardly necessary to draw attention to the meeting of the International Congress on Alcoholism, held this year at Bremen, which has already received much public notice. The presidential position was held by Dr. Delbrük, a well-known alienist in Germany, where the question is receiving earnest attention.

ITALY.

By Dr. GIULIO CESARE FERRARI.

One readily sees in Italy, and perhaps also the same may be observed in other countries, that there is a considerable disproportion in the respective development of the two branches of the problem of psychiatry. For, whilst the Italian alienists are not only as advanced as those of other countries in the scientific study of the different questions of psychiatry, and have taken the lead in certain branches (for instance in the work on criminal anthropology by Lombroso, the cerebral histology by Golgi, Marchi, etc.), they have taken but little notice of, at least up till recent years, certain practical questions (which, besides, have been long under discussion) of the special treatment of the insane. Thus, for example, we still lack a universal law regarding the treatment of the insane, whether in asylums or not.

It would take us too long, and would not be of much benefit to the readers of this JOURNAL, to seek the various causes of this fact, which is really a moral advantage to us, because, in the absence of a law for which we clamoured so long, abuses such as arbitrary detention, so often complained of in other places, are rarely met with here. Since our last epitome, however, something of this character has happened, which it seems right to mention here, as it has resulted in real progress in our country.

The provinces of the Veneto (Venezia, Verona, Rovigo, Vicenza, Treviso, Udine, etc.) have for nearly forty years had two asylums on two islands near Venice, one at St. Clement's for women, the other at St. Servolo for men. Following the ancient statute of the Veneto regarding the treatment of the male insane, the latter asylum was entrusted to a brotherhood, the "Fate-bene-fratelli;" but these, with an incredible carelessness, have allowed things to slide in a fashion shameful from a humane and moral point of view, and administratively ridiculous.

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Inquiries have frequently been made into the organisation of this asylum, but either the incompetence of the investigators, or the clerical element which was so dominant in Venice, has rendered them fruitless. During the past year, on account of very serious rumours which were current, a new commission of inquiry was constituted, with Professor Belmondo, the eminent Director of the Clinique in Mental Diseases at Padua, as adviser. The skill of the latter and the absolute honesty of the members of the commission succeeded in overcoming the network of private interests which concealed the true state of affairs. The publication of their inquiry created an enormous uproar.

To sum up, there were found at St. Servolo patients chained in the same barbarous instruments which Pinel had stripped off in 1793 from the patients in the Salpêtrière; there was no sanitation, the moral *abandon* of the patients was complete, and administrative abuses were numberless.

Public opinion, powerfully assisted by the public press, forced the hand of the Government, who at last substituted in all the departments of this asylum a lay for a clerical administration.

The influence, not of the scandal—for St. Servolo was the only asylum where such horrors were possible,—but of the cry of disgust from the public conscience, was most beneficial. It doubtless contributed more than any other consideration to the almost complete suppression of all forms of restraint, which, although in a much more humane form, still actually existed in a number of our asylums. The fact that of seventy-seven patients who had been chained up for years, seventy could be completely liberated in one day without the least danger, could not fail to have most remarkable influence.

The truth of the old adage, "*Oportet ut scandala evenient*," has been shown once again, and not only in this case, as we shall presently see. In fact, after a discussion, both prolonged and bitter, between Professor Tanzi, director and superintendent of the provincial asylum at Florence, and the *committee* of the same asylum concerning the limits of the medical director's authority, Professor Tanzi believed it his duty to send in his resignation. The matter produced an enormous outcry at the time on account of the foregoing events, and also because of those interested in the question; and the Society of Italian Alienists (Società freniatrica Italiana) intervened in the debate, proposing and adopting a resolution which showed the Government the necessity of passing the famous law for asylums which has been under consideration for so long.

The questions whose solution we so anxiously await are two especially—that of the authority of the medical director, and that of the department responsible for the daily maintenance rate.

The first question has a very considerable moral value; it is so important in the internal administration of the asylums, a point which need not be insisted on in this JOURNAL. It is a question naturally of taking away the lay direction of the administration, which always tends to limit expenses, or at least to regulate them in a non-technical manner, and often in opposition to the skilled judgment of the medical superintendent.

The second question is also grave enough, for it can influence in a

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.50.208.149 Published online by Cambridge University Press

very marked way the progress of treatment throughout the whole country. The maintenance rate is now paid by the administration of different departments (Provincie). The local administration of the "Communi" have not the least check on the class of patient sent into the asylum. Any person of unsound mind, even the most quiet—imbeciles, epileptics, even those who are known to be absolutely harmless,—may be sent in where they are maintained by the provincial administration. From this cause there is a constant progressive increase in the number of insane, and a constantly increasing weight on the provincial administration.

There are some who would charge the local authorities with a portion of the maintenance rate of all the patients, or the whole rate for the chronic and harmless patients. But as the Communes are nearly always very poor, either of these courses would result in an automatic deterioration of the hospital surroundings of these patients.

One would hope, then, that the new law will charge the maintenance to the big councils of the provinces, if they cannot be charged to the State, as is done in France at the present time.(1) The asylum service is quite a special thing, and, being a public service, cannot be compared with a charitable institution.

There is one last question which the scheme of the law proposed by the Government settles badly, and that is the supervision of the asylums. According to the proposals, they are actually going to form local committees, half administrative and half technical; whereas, considering our geographical conditions, it would have been preferable to form a central bureau of inspectors, whose competence and authority would be generally recognised, and who would serve for the whole country.

One step has been made this year in this direction on the occasion of the Venetian scandal, and although it was a local fact, it should be noted. The Government has nominated Professor Belmondo, who made the very searching inquiry into the circumstances of St. Servolo, Inspector-General of the Venetian asylums. It is, however, only a well-constituted and central board which can give to the public and the asylums of all Italy that mutual confidence which is so necessary for them.

Before leaving the question of the asylums I should like to mention that in January, 1904, there is going to be opened the first asylum in Italy which will be reserved for acute cases only. It has just been built at Udine, near the Austrian border, and Dr. Antonini, formerly director of the asylum at Voghera, is going to be director. I would also remind you that around the asylum of "Reggio Emilia" has grown up the accommodation of the insane by entrusting them to family care according to the system initiated by Professor Tamburini and revealed at the Congress of Anvers in 1902; but I hope to succeed in the formation of an inter-provincial colony on the family system for the two departments of Reggio Emilia and Parma according to the Lierneux type.

It is worth while saying a few words about the formation by Professor Tamburini in his asylum at Reggio Emilia of two practical schools, one for those incapacitated in the course of service, the other for the young men and women who hope to follow this calling; the first school follows what I have seen in the asylum of M. Deventer at Meeren-

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.50.208.149 Published online by Cambridge University Press

burg, in Holland, the second the teaching and experience of Professor Bourneville, of Paris.

The scientific zeal of our young alienists has been this year again very keen. Unfortunately I have here no space for more than a summary. I will give it in the section of bibliography and review in this JOURNAL, for it is a contribution of sufficient worth. Besides, I am waiting the complete publication of a work by Professor Tanzi, to review three treatises of mental diseases which have marked this period—by Professor Belmondo, of Padua; by Professor Bianchi, of Naples; by Professor Tanzi, of Florence. It is apparent, also, that the intellectual movement in the field of psychiatry among us is considerable.

I will finish with some of the arguments connected with the subject of this epitome. The movement for the instruction of backward children (idiots, imbeciles, etc.) is gradually organising in a definite direction. I have been appointed to direct "l' Instituto Medico-pedagogico Emiliano," now moved close to Bologna, where are gathered already 300 children coming especially from the provinces of Emilia and Romagne, with a great preponderance of morally backward children (the idiots do not number more than seventy, and even these are chiefly educable).

"L' Instituto Toscano Umberto I per fanciulli nervosi e tardivi," of Florence, supervised by Professer Tanzi and directed by Dr. Modigliano, has also been moved. It is now in a magnificent situation in the same town, and can accommodate fifty children.

"L' Instituto pei Frenastenici," of Rome, at last possesses a position worthy of direct affiliation with the "Lega per la protezione dei fanciulli deficenti," and for this the entire credit belongs to Professor Bonfigli. Here it is well to record to the honour of our country that "Scuola magistrale ortofrenica," directed by Dr. Montesano, continues to furnish to the special schools for backward children, and to the different institutes for imbeciles and idiots, an excellent staff trained for this purpose.

Again, the advanced course of scientific teaching of Dr. Pizzoli at Crevalcore (Bologna)—of which I spoke at length last year—has been attended by 100 masters and mistresses from different schools with a marvellous zeal and diligence. Dr. Pizzoli has invented an apparatus for the examination and education of the senses and for the psychological investigation of children, which presents great opportunities for studying not only normal children, but also those who are mentally deficient. Also I wish to record the good results which I have obtained at an adjoining school which I have founded near the elementary schools of Reggio Emilia. The conditions in the past year have been particularly unfavourable, but nevertheless, of twenty-two children sent as incapable of learning for divers reasons, only two have been found to need the special care of institutes for the backward. Of the twenty remaining, only three had to spend an additional year at the adjoining school. As to the other seventeen, a few have in the course of the academic year passed their classes in which they have continued their course, keeping well up with their old companions; the greater part presented themselves only for the final tests of their classes, with results very satisfactory and very encouraging.

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Although it does not really belong to the field of psychiatrical progress, being the direct development in a practical field of the school of criminal anthropology of Professor Lombroso, I think it will be useful to announce that Dr. Ottolenghi, professor of legal medicine at the University of Sienne, has just started near the Ministry of the Interior at Rome a "course of scientific police lectures," which will help to give to the policemen who are commencing their career, difficult as well as delicate, the most essential principles of biology, anthropology, and psychology, using also the practical teachings of the most clever and celebrated policemen. The object is to make young policemen understand the rational method of application of scientific facts practically (leaving aside all theory), and especially their application to criminals and to the manifestations of their criminality. It is a school which differs completely in its object and in the means it employs from the "Bertillonage" of Paris, and which can certainly give excellent results which it will be hurtful to ignore.

It will doubtless still more interest the readers of the JOURNAL to know that the pupils and admirers of the great scientific work of Camilo Golgi have collected in three great volumes, under the title of *Opera omnia*, all the works of this indefatigable investigator, who has opened the gates of histological examination of the nervous system. There are twenty-nine papers, which occupy 1257 pages, illustrated by fifty-one plates, and which represent the life-work of a man who has deserved well not only of his own country, but of science at large.

(1) The next congress of the Società Freniatrica Italiana, which will be held at Genoa in 1904, will have for discussion a paper on "The Assumption by the State of the Care of the Insane."

SPAIN.

By W. COROLEN.

Dr. Giné's most regrettable decease has been a great blow to Spanish psychiatry, the well-known professor being a pioneer of progress and an apostle for phrenopathic teaching. He was the first to give clinical lectures on insanity at his asylum of New Bethlem, and one of the rare Spanish authors in this subject. At the present time no course of mental diseases is provided in our universities. Dr. Vera in Madrid, Dr. Galcerán in Barcelona, and a few others have given occasional lectures and practical demonstrations, but this year, unfortunately, even this little contribution has been denied to Spanish students. Street riots have postponed the compulsory *curricula* of dermatology and ophthalmology. The poor science of Pinel and Esquirol, Pritchard and Crichton-Browne, because of its absence from the scheme of improvement, could not even be postponed. A few scattered ideas emanating from the chair of forensic medicine are the only material furnished to the future practitioners. That such a state of things is very reprehensible all agree, but nobody takes the steps which would put an end to it.

A most satisfactory advance has been made by Drs. Galcerán and Rz. Morini by the publication of the new *Phrenopathical Review*. The

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