nurses and next to nothing for the men. That the pay of the male attendants is higher than that of the nurses is the necessary consequence of the law of demand and supply. Fortunately, the minister has passed a resolution for the reorganization of the personnel in the Government asylum at Medomblik. It is ordered that there shall be four degrees *viz.* applicants, assistants, nurses, and head nurses. Persons applying shall not be under 18 nor above 35 years, they shall first be medically examined by one of the physicians, they shall fill up a form of questions, and inquiries shall be made as to conduct, etc., of the applicant. When appointed they shall pass an examination within a year and a half, but not until four months after admission. It comprises reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, the elements of the nursing of the insane; women have to prove their acquaintance with needlework. The examination is held twice a year (in March and in September). The examination for attendant or nurse is divided into two parts. It is required that the first part shall be passed within a year and a half after their appointment; the minimum of time is to be eleven months of service in the lower rank. This first part comprises history, geography, an elementary knowledge of human anatomy, and physiology. Within two years the second part must be passed—nursing, an acquaintance with the symptoms of insanity, care for the insane; women shall show some proficiency in the cooking for the sick.

After passing this examination successfully they are appointed nurse; they obtain a diploma and receive a badge.

A schoolmaster is attached to the Medomblik asylum. His duties are to teach the idiots (a few hours a week) and to give lessons to the applicants and assistants.

The salaries are as follows:

	Men.	Women.
Applicants . . .	F.180 (£15)	F.120 (£10)
Assistants having passed the first part of exam. .	F.240 (£20)	F.180 (£15)
Assistants before passing .	F.200 (£16 15s.)	F.150 (£12 10s.)
Attendants (single) . .	F.230 (£23 6s.)	
„ (married) .	F.550 (£25 10s.)	
Head-attendants (single) .	F.400 (£33 10s.)	
„ (married)	F.650 (£54 4s.)	

Attendants may rise to a pay of F.355 (£30) per annum, and if married to F.750 (£62 10s.); head-attendants may rise to F.500 (£41), if single, and to F.850 (£70 16s.) if married. An attendant may be pensioned on account of infirmity after ten years' duty, and such a pension may reach an amount of F.700 (£58 6s.).

It is hoped that an improvement in the social status of attendants will greatly improve the standard.

ITALY.

By Dr. G. C. Ferrari.

The year 1904 will always be a memorable one in the history of Italian psychiatry. February 14th saw the promulgation of the new

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Law for Lunatics and Asylums, which for the last ten years has been lingering in the different legislative assemblies. Although the law is imperfect and needs many modifications, yet it is a public guarantee against arbitrary sequestration; it also provides for the safe keeping of the property of patients and gives to the medical director authority over the administrative powers necessary for the welfare of the patients.

The rules, which will complete the law and which have been confided to alienists of such distinction as Professors Tamburini and Bianchi, will state precisely the duties of everybody and enjoin that there shall be a medical officer for every hundred patients (the medical director not being included), a nurse for every ten patients, and a section reserved for the observation of new cases until the diagnosis has been made, and the necessary legal authority for detention has not been definitely given. The rules regulate all the means of mechanical restraint, and very heavy fines are inflicted, not only on the attendants who use such means without medical authority, but also on the medical officer who orders such treatment when not absolutely necessary. They recommend "boarding out" and "family care" in its various forms (to recommend a uniform system would be impossible owing to the diversity of systems in vogue in various regions); they compel the asylums to give theoretical and practical instruction to attendants and to those who aspire to such posts and also the building of medico-pedagogic institutions for backward children. Further, the rules provide for the well-being of the medical staff (regulations regarding meetings, promotions, and pensions) so as to promote the study of psychiatry. The new asylums will be united in various regions and special institutions built for this purpose.

We owe the new law above all to Signor Giolitti, President of the Council of Ministers, and to the constant representations of the Società Freniatrica Italiana, the president of which is Professor Tamburini.

The Società Freniatrica had its Congress at Génes, on October 18th to 23rd, the new lunacy law being the principal subject for discussion. The Congress was presided over by Professor Morselli, director of the Clinique for Nervous and Mental Disease at the University of Génes. In his opening address, Professor Morselli spoke of the close bonds which united psychiatry with neuropathology, bonds so strong that in our universities the two chairs are combined. That the psychic factor predominates more and more in the etiology, pathology, and in the therapy of mental disease he clearly demonstrated with many clever arguments and took occasion to deplore the greater study given to neuropathology as compared with that given to psychopathology.

Of the papers read we can scarcely give more than their titles. Fragnito (Napoli) and Donaggio (Reggio Emilia) reported on the anatomy and physiology of the channels of conduction from the nerve-cell. According to them there do not exist in the central nervous system any fibres completely developed which do not end in a ganglionic cell. The neuropils of the invertebrates do not exist in the vertebrates and it is only by special staining methods Donaggio (*Riv. sper. di Freniatria*, vol. xxx, Nos. 2, 3) has demonstrated the existence of a fibrillar endo-cellular network which preserves continuity with the axis-cylinders. The cell, besides being a simple

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channel of conduction of nerve-currents, has a high functional value. The diversity of the mutual connections between the different fibrillæ are in correspondence with the variations in the psychological mechanism.

The second paper by Obici (Venice) and Angiolella (Nocera) on "The Psychoses at the Different Ages of Life," raised the burning question of dementia præcox. The discussion was very lively, the views of Kraepelin being by far the more generally accepted.

The third report by Professor Negro (Torino) dealt with "The Actual Conception of the Systematic Diseases of the Spinal Cord." He states that the pathological anatomy and the symptoms of these are explained by the neuron theory.

In the fourth report Professor Belmondo (Padua) treated of the different technical questions relating to asylums. The new lunacy law which I have already mentioned orders the institution at each of the asylums, but quite apart from them, of a section for the special observation of new cases, where such have to remain so long as there is any uncertainty in the diagnosis of insanity, the maximum period being a month. Professor Belmondo thinks this to be in complete disaccord with the constant efforts of alienists to demonstrate that the insane are suffering from disease just as much as those who need hospital care in the ordinary sense of the word. The Congress, however, were not in general agreement on this point.

The last report by Prof. Tamburini (Reggio Emilia) and Antonin (Udine), on "The Legal Position of Alienists on Questions of Civic Capacity," is of purely local interest.

All these Reports gave rise to interesting and instructive discussions, so much so that there was but little time for other communications. I wish, however, to say a word about Prof. Colucci's (Napoli) work "On the Effects of Inoculation by Different Substances in the Ventricles of the Brain." Dogs and rabbits proved very suitable for the experiments, some of the dogs surviving for three years. The phenomena which resulted varied according to the substance injected, the weight of the animal, etc., and there were observed spasms, paralyses, convulsions, asthenias, sensory and psychic disturbances, etc. But two phenomena above all were interesting—the rapid change from most grave states to those of perfect health, and the striking of cataleptic and stereotyped attitudes. The histological study of the pieces of brain was productive of much knowledge regarding the cerebral lymphatics, the layers of the choroid, etc.

As for myself, I brought before the Congress the organisation of institutions for backward children, idiots, and imbeciles, about which I could speak with some confidence, having for one year directed the one at Bertalia, near Bologna, in which were 320 children, ranging from 5 to 16 years of age. I urged the necessity of the present institutions, which are either private ventures or charities, coming under State control, where all the "backward" should be sent, where they would be classified, educated, and taught, when possible, some useful employment. The Congress passed a resolution in accordance with this.

M. Felici (Ancona) brought before the Congress the burning question of the relationships which should exist between the State and

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the asylums, advocating a system similar to that adopted in France. There was an energetic debate, and though there was general agreement that the asylums should come under State control, it was thought wiser to wait and see the effects of the new lunacy law.

The numerous contributions made at the Congress bear eloquent testimony to the healthy state of psychiatry in Italy. I regret that lack of space prevents me from dealing fully with them. I would like to mention, however, the "Calipher-Index" shown to the Congress by Dr. Belloni (Quarto al Mare). It combines ordinary caliphers for cranio-anthropometric researches with a scale showing the relative indices.

In a previous number of the Journal I have already mentioned Prof. Belmondo's *Manual of Mental Diseases*. Unfortunately, this work forms part of a *Clinical Encyclopædia* and some trivial editorial questions prevent the diffusion which it merits by its clearness, order, and descriptiveness.

Prof. Bianchi has finished his great treatise, commenced two years ago. The studies of the celebrated clinician of Naples on the cerebral functions, especially of the anterior lobes of the brain, and their subsequent influence on neuro-pathology, psychiatry, and neurology, occupy a great part of the work. The classification of mental diseases, which is peculiarly his own, merits a long exposition and some discussion, but the clinical pictures are striking in distinctness and precision, the most modern views on psycho-pathology being always remembered.

The last great publication is Prof. Tanzi's (Florence) *Treatise on Mental Diseases*, a work well arranged and rich in original thought, almost at times reaching the paradox. M. Tanzi is never afraid to advance an hypothesis when there are facts which justify it, and he never forgets to point out the bonds which bind science to other branches of biology; but when he comes to deal with the forms of mental disorder he does not deviate from the lines of rational empiricism. It is this fact upon which rests principally all the practical value of his great work, which can be recommended to students as well as to all who are interested in psychiatry.

I am about to prepare an English translation of Tanzi's treatise. Such an undertaking is alike an honour to the author and to the nation which adopts his work. Only a sterile race fears a foreign invasion. Similar ventures in Italy have been singularly successful, James' *Principles of Psychology*, which I translated into Italian in 1901 (an edition of 2000 copies), having absolutely run out, necessitating the preparation of a second edition.

The study of psychology flourishes in all its branches. Pedagogic psychology, above all, is cultivated in Italy, and numerous schoolmasters and mistresses now attend the scientific course of M. Pizzoli, which this year is to be transferred to Milan. I am about to publish this year a journal, which will be called *Rivista di Psicologia applicata alla Pedagogia ed alla Psicopatologia*, which will appear bi-monthly, in which it is proposed to gather together work now scattered in numerous publications.

The International Congress on Psychology will be held this year at Rome towards the end of April, and the International Congress on

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Family Care will be held at Milan in 1906. Great interest is being taken in these events by alienists, the proceedings of which will form material for future Reports.

I will conclude with some items of news which are more or less related to the subject of this paper, and which will be of interest to the readers of the *Journal of Mental Science*. For a year now there has been in force the "law of pardon," which permits a judge to suspend for the first time the carrying out of the sentence of the Court so long as the accused does not offend again.

We are ready also for a change in the law regarding the treatment of "habitual criminals" similar to that recently adopted in England, considering that society has a right to protect itself against these miserable creatures and to take advantage of their possible aptitude for work.

Lastly, there has been founded at Ferrara by Prof. Capellitti a new "Ecole de Police Scientifique" analogous to that established in Rome, which I mentioned in my last year's Report, and which is directed by Prof. Ottolenghi.

Thus Italy continues in the path of progress and enlightenment, and I am thankful for the opportunity of once more recording it

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NORWAY (1902 to 1904).

By Dr. M. Holmboe.

In a previous communication to this Journal in 1898 regarding psychiatry in Norway, I have given a summary of the number of insane according to the census taken in 1865 and in 1891. I gave then my opinion that the increase, as indicated by the latter census, depends certainly to some extent upon inaccurate investigation, but that it was still too great to be explained by that circumstance alone, especially as regards acquired mental disease. The results of the latest census, taken on December 3rd, 1900, are stated below, together with the two previous returns:

	1865	1891	1900
Imbeciles and idiots	2039	2431	4559
Acquired mental diseases	3156	5318	5897
Total	5195	7749	10456

In proportion to the population:

	1865	1891	1900
Imbeciles and idiots	1·835	1·823	1·491
Acquired mental diseases	1·539	1·376	1·380
Total	1·327	1·258	1·214

The considerable increase of the number of idiots from 1891 to 1900, as indicated by the two last censuses, is, however, only apparent. Because the terms used in the older returns had been misunderstood, so that in great part only well-marked idiots had been counted, these terms were changed in 1900. In consequence of this idiots, more or less educable, were counted in the last census. The returns, therefore, are not suitable for comparison with the earlier ones, but will,

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