result of one and the same cause—poisoning of the organism by micro-organisms and their products of disintegration. The author has several times noted in his patients irregularities in their stereognostic determining of objects by using the sense of touch, and in their ability to estimate stereoscopically the distance and the size of objects. Anomalies must, therefore, be present, both in the upper and in the lower parts of the parietal region. HAMILTON C. MARR.

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9. Sociology.

Procreation during Intoxication [*Die Zengung im Ransche*]. (*Neurolog. Cbl., No.* 2, 1908.) *Näcke, P.*

Näcke has given expression to his scepticism with regard to the evil results of procreation during a state of intoxication, and subjects to severe criticism the statement of such a connection. After touching on the difficulty of defining what is meant by "intoxication," and the further difficulty with regard to ascertaining the fact of conception in that state, and eliminating other possible acts of intercourse, Näcke states that no case is usually taken to exclude the existence of slight degenerative conditions (inborn, latent, or acquired) in the man or the woman which might be the real operative cause. Still less is any evidence offered, either of microscopic or micro-chemical nature, as to the toxic nature of the semen. Näcke would be glad to hear from any alienist or neurologist of a single case of this kind which would bear critical investigation. At present he is not acquainted with one case, either in his own experience or that of others, in which injury to the offspring was conclusively traced to the intoxication of a parent at conception. He by no means denies the possibility of such a connection, but asserts the extreme difficulty of proving it, and its probably great rarity. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

New Anthropographometric Method [*Nouvelle méthode anthrographométrique*]. (*Journ. de Méd., No.* 18, 1908.) *Crouzel, Ed.*

The author confirms the well-known anatomical fact that nothing is more variable than the disposition of the dorsal veins of the hand. Further, he states, as the result of investigation, that the venous disposition varies in the right and left hands of each person. On this latter phenomenon he bases his new anthropographometric method. The use of this method is important for purposes of identification, especially of criminals. The method takes cognisance of the disposition, distribution, and calibre of the veins. It is carried out in this way: The hand is plunged into cold water for about two minutes. The first constricting effect is followed by dilatation. This dilatation may be avoided by compressing the wrist firmly with an Esmarch bandage. The arm is swung downwards, and a photograph of the hand is taken. When the photograph is completed it is covered with a sheet of transparent paper ruled vertically and horizontally, the spaces between the lines being one-third of a centimètre square. The lines are numbered on the extreme left of the transparent paper, from above downwards, 1

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to 40, and at the top, from left to right, 1 to 26. If intersection of veins takes place beneath, say, the horizontal line 33 at its intersection with the vertical line 8, the formula is written 33 + 8, and so with each point of intersection of veins ascending in the photograph from left to right. When this is completed, the numbers in the first set of formulæ are added together, where they are in the same horizontal line; thus, if two intersections occur in the horizontal line 33, these two are added together, and in this way 33 + 8, 33 + 11 in the first formula appears as 85 in the second formula. Thirdly, all the numbers of the second formula are added together to make a total sum. Individual formulæ made up in the above-noted three divisions, when compared, show at once the difference in the disposition of the vessels in the several persons. HAMILTON C. MARR.

Alcoholic Insanity in the Turin Asylum during the Period 1903–1905 [*La Frenosi Alcoolica nel Manicomio di Torino nel Triennio* 1903–1905]. (*Ann. di Freniat., vol. xviii, fasc. i, March*, 1908.) *Margaria.*

This brief statistical note is interesting chiefly as showing the extent to which alcoholism has developed in those parts of Italy where modern industrial conditions have become established in the last few years. During the period to which the figures refer the number of cases of alcoholic insanity admitted into the Turin Asylum amounted to 207—182 in men and 25 in women. The total number of patients received during the same period was 2,001 (the author does not mention the sexual distribution), so that the *ratio* of alcoholic insanity works out at 10·34 *per cent.* No figures are given with regard to occupation, but the author remarks on the predominance of factory operatives, liquor-sellers and beggars amongst the alcoholic patients; agricultural labourers were strikingly few. As regards age, the period of maximum incidence in alcoholic cases was found to be between 35 and 45 in men, while in women, on the other hand, in the majority of instances the patients were under 40. Morselli is quoted as attributing the earlier occurrence of alcoholism in women to the influence of prostitution. In discussing the clinical varieties met with, the author adopts the system of classification suggested by the Italian Società Freniatrica, which recognises four categories, *viz.*: (1) Delirium tremens; (2) acute forms (confusional, etc.); (3) chronic delusional forms; and (4) chronic paretic cases. The author does not accept, however, the reality of an alcoholic general paralysis distinct from other forms of that disease, so that no cases appear in the last-named group. And as cases of delirium tremens are generally dealt with in general hospitals, the first category of alcoholic insanities is also unrepresented. The cases are accordingly distributed between the confusional and the chronic delusional groups, 89 being assigned to the former and 116 to the latter. W. C. SULLIVAN.

On So-called Moral Insanity and its Medico-legal Significance [*Über die sogenannte moral insanity unde ihre forensische Bedeutung*] (*Psych. Neur. Wochens., No.* 26, *September* 19*th*, 1908.) *Berze.*

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