it seems a far better plan than that of enlarging existing asylums, several of which are already far too large. At the present moment the board of governors of the Meerenberg Asylum are contemplating a plan of extension. As it is, Meerenberg contains more than 1300 patients, and it is probable that the extensions will enable 300 more to be received. It is to be, as they style it, a *cité médicale*, but it will only prove of temporary benefit, since, as the population of the province increases, so will the number of lunatics.

ITALY.

By Dr. GIULIO CESARE FERRARI.

Last year, in my epitome of the work accomplished in the fields of psychiatry and neurology, I endeavoured to give a general idea of the geographical distribution of the more important centres of study and work, showing their chief characteristics, their diverse tendencies, and the nature of their publications and journals. I thought that once having accomplished this, I would be enabled, in following years, to deal systematically with the work done, but I feared that in doing so my production would run the risk of being incomplete and not sufficiently precise. I am obliged, therefore, again to follow the plan I adopted last year, but in place of noting mere general tendencies and characteristics, I propose to note the real progress in these branches of science.

I start my review at the north of Italy, and progress to the south.

At Turin, the psychiatrical clinique is presided over by Lombroso, but this year he has been largely engaged in the organisation of the Fifth Congress of Criminal Anthropology, where his teachings first found favour. One of his assistants, now third at the asylum at Turin, which is directed by Marro, Dr. Marco Trèves has done some interesting work—I allude to his interesting investigations regarding the malformations of the nails in cases of periodic insanity, as significant of great metabolic changes, and on the functional stigmata of degeneracy in epileptics; further, he has constructed an apparatus which ensures the constancy of thermic applications at any temperature from 5° C. to 80° C., and maintains this temperature for any desired length of time, or varies it with the greatest readiness when the temperatures are of wider range. These thermic applications, which can be used internally, or better externally, have a great future before them in the treatment of nervous diseases, and in the field of experimental science.

Marro, this year, has been engaged on the second edition of his clinical, anthropological, and social studies on puberty, which are now to be published in French, and which are a veritable mine of interesting facts and original observations. Pellizzi has continued his studies on idiocy, trying to determine an anatomico-clinical basis for his two great classes. By original observation he has studied the pathogenetic conditions of cerebral diseases. Martinotti and Tirelli, with the aid of the microphotograph, have worked on the nerve-cells of the spinal ganglia. In the field of neuropathology there is at Turin, besides Silva and

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.137 Published online by Cambridge University Press

his pupils, Pescarolo, a clinician of great distinction, who has done excellent work on the resistance of the body to electricity, on the myopathic atrophies, and on the diagnosis of spinal diseases.

Still in the north of Italy, we find the asylum of Voghera directed by Dr. Antonini. During the past year he has been mainly occupied (besides his work on mental degeneracy) in combating the spread of pellagra. To this end he founded the *Rivista Pellagrogica Italiana*, so as to give unity to the study of this disease, and to influence the governing ranks of society in their battle against this plague, which is becoming more terrible, seeing that it is spreading to the mountainous districts which have been hitherto free.

The younger workers, who have during the past year entered the medical staff at the asylum of Milan at Mombello, have given good proof of steady work. We notice, above all, the studies on Parkinson's disease by Pini and Gonzales, and on a case of hysterical œdema of a segmental type. Gonzales has made observations on a case of periodic ichthyosis of a diffuse character occurring in an imbecile. Pini, on the other hand, has published a book on epilepsy, giving a critical *résumé* on the bibliography of this disease, both ancient and modern, and on the different methods of treatment—a most interesting work, and which shortly will be translated into French.

At a little distance from Mombello is the beautiful asylum of Bergamo, directed by Marzocchi, where Dr. A. Mariani applies himself to the study of the prophylaxis of pellagra. He has also constructed an ideal goniometer for the measuring of the facial angle.

At Brescia, Lui is publishing his notes on the technique of asylum management, which are as admirable for their delicacy as for their sound judgment; and with Seppilli, director of the asylum, Pianetta and Lambranzi have published a number of clinical papers in the *Rivista di Patologia Nervosa* of Professor Tanzi (Florence), and in the *Bollettino del Manicomio di Ferrara*.

At Padova, Obici, assistant to Professor Belmondo, who holds the chair of Clinical Psychiatry, has studied the influence of continued mental work and intellectual fatigue on respiration, noting that the respiratory activity is lowest between two and three o'clock. He is now about to publish in the *Bibliothèque internationale de Psychologie expérimentale*, a volume on writing, where he tries to give a psychological basis to graphology. As regards clinical work, he has made numerous observations on isotony, noting the blood-pressure in the insane, dying, seniles, and degenerates.

Coming further south to Gènes, we find the clinique of Professor Morselli. Buccelli has a work on *The Mental State of Choreics*, and Professor Morselli is preparing a volume on *The Mediums*, which is sure to excite great discussion, and also a second edition of his great *Trattate di Semiologia Psichiatria*, to be followed by his important *Lessons on Anthropology*.

Reggio Emilia, with its Institut Psychiatrique, directed by Tamburini, still offers the greatest advantages in wide fields of study. Donaggio, by continuing his work and perfecting his methods, has demonstrated the fact, about which no one will contest his priority, that there exists an anastomosis between the reticula around the cell, and that

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.137 Published online by Cambridge University Press

in the middle of the cell. The small fibrils composing this reticula represent the path of conduction and transmission of stimuli, and represent the true individuality of the cell, contrary to the opinion of Bethe. Donaggio has also done some interesting work on the syndroma of Little. Ceni has studied the treatment of epilepsy by serotherapy. He has tried the progressive injection of the serum of epileptics, to obtain an immunity or to increase the resistance to the onset of fits. In eight out of ten cases he obtained an improvement in nutrition, and a diminution in the number and in the severity of the fits. He suspended the treatment: in three cases the attacks returned, in three cases the improvement was maintained, and in two cases the cure was complete after the lapse of two years. In two cases the treatment had to be stopped owing to the occurrence of grave symptoms. Ceni believes the good effects to be due to some principle produced by metabolism, which is of a stimulating character and which is found in the blood. He has discovered a new physiological equivalent of the epileptic attack, manifested by hypothermic conditions. With Dr. Pastrovich he has published a study on the pathogenesis of epilepsy, which shows a specific principle of a toxic nature entirely dissimilar to the toxines found in the blood due to organic functionising. They have also studied the adaptation of nerve-cells to hyperactivity in a work which is published in the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*, the journal of the Institute of Reggio Emilia. Ceni is now studying Pellagra.

Pastrovich has done some neuropathological investigations, comprised in two cases of amyotrophic paralysis, a case of epilepsy following a wound of the prefrontal region, and a rare case of paralysis of the hypoglossal nerve, due to a peripheral neuritis. It is the first case of its sort published where the origin was attributed to alcohol. One cannot speak too highly of both the author and his work. He is now engaged on a translation into Italian of the great treatise of Oppenheim on nervous diseases, whose pupil he has been for a long time.

As to myself, I have studied the genesis of systematised delusions, trying to apply to them the theory of Lange-James on the emotions. I have, in short, supported the primary and principal influence of the emotional state in the development of delusions of persecution in paranoides. In another paper, published in the *Journal of Mental Pathology*, I have studied the physiological conditions associated with periodic insanity. In addition, I have undertaken the translation of *Talks to Teachers on Psychology*, of William James, whose *Principles of Psychology*, translated into Italian, has been a great success.

In my laboratory of psychology in the Institute, Dr. Scappuci has worked on the motor functions in the sane and insane, and on the methods of examining psychologically the insane.

Not far from Reggio is the asylum of Ferrara, directed by Tambroni, where is published a *Bulletin*, which is making its way in the world. He publishes short papers by his own medical assistants, and those of the asylum at Brescia, especially on the technique of asylum management.

At Imola, near to Bologna, Brugia, director of the asylum, is inte-

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.137 Published online by Cambridge University Press

rested especially in psychopathology, and is about to publish a work on degeneracy, illustrated by photographs. He has made some curious observations on the periodic psychoses which are not yet published.

A centre of first rank, and yearly becoming of more importance, is the clinique at Florence, directed by Tanzi. His lectures and the editorship of the *Traité de Psychiatrie*, which he has filled for some time, and upon which he has imprinted his own remarkable originality, have prevented him from making minor contributions. But Lugaro, without doubt the chief cytologist in Italy, has worked with the assistants at the clinique in the fields of pathological anatomy, experimental pathology, and clinical psychiatry. Their papers appear frequently in the *Rivista di Patologia Sperimentale*—the part dealing with current literature excelling many *Centralblätter*.

Rome is associated with illustrious alienists and promising students. The university course in psychiatry is given by Professor Sciamanna, who is assisted in the clinique by Pardo, Fabrizi, and Guidi. Preference is given to clinical work and neuropathology.

The asylum of Rome is directed by Professor Bonfigli, who in 1898 began to give much thought to mentally defective children. He founded a national league for the protection of this class, which was supported by many people of note in Italy. It is showing good fruit due to the organising spirit of its founder. He was fortunate in the selection of Dr. Montessori, a young lady, and Dr. Montesano, two people of great intelligence and devoted to their work, and with them he opened a school where the masters of elementary schools were able during eight months out of the year to attend the theoretical and practical courses on the methods of educating backward children. The methods were illustrated at an institute where sixty of this class of children were collected. I regret I cannot find space to dilate further on this meritorious work. In the asylum of Rome, besides clinical investigations, there is much work done in the laboratory on pathological anatomy under the direction of Mingazzini and his pupils. De Sanctis continues his work, of which I made mention last year. A distinguished assistant at the same asylum, Dr. Giannelli, who gives a course in psychiatry at the University of Rome, which is free, has done some remarkable work on the cortical centres of respiration, on microgyry, and on bulbar paralysis, due to compression.

Professor Bianchi, Director of the Psychiatrical Clinique, of Naples, has published the first part of his treatise on psychiatry. The main lines of this work seem to aim at establishing an anatomo-physiological basis in psychiatry. He speaks of the functions of the frontal lobes, and of the evolutional regions of the human brain.

Fragnito continues his studies on the evolution of the nerve-cell, inclining more to the multicellular origin. Bellisari reports three cases in which an attack of tachycardia took the place of epileptic fits. Colucci, who is in the front ranks of Italian psychiatry, shows how the ergographic index represents well the state of neuro-psychiatric disequilibrium of the epileptic, and in a practical way demonstrates the re-education of dements. Crisafulli has done some interesting clinical work.

Quite near is Aversa, whose asylum is directed by Prof. Virgilio. He has raised the question of asylums for the criminal insane.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.137 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In conclusion, there is at Nocera Inferiore an inter-provincial asylum for almost the whole of southern Italy. Here we find Del Greco, philosopher and psychologist, who has maintained the necessity of a synthetic psychopathology contrary to pure materialism, more especially the advanced experimentalism of official psychiatry. The insanity of women, the moral cure of psychopathic attacks, etc., are receiving attention.

Work of a more practical nature is being done by Angiolella and Tomasini.

As regards Sicily, Mandalari, at Messina, has studied criminality, and de Mondio amyotrophy.

Although perhaps out of place here, I wish to mention the distinction cast on the Italian schools by Lombroso at the Congress of Criminal Anthropology, held in August at Amsterdam. After Holland, the greatest number of representatives came from Italy.

The year has been full of energy, the greatest activity being displayed in the smaller centres of psychiatry. This was shown at the sittings of the eleventh congress of the Società Freniatrica Italiana, held at Ancona in September, of which Prof. Tamburini has been for long the president.

Italian psychiatry congratulates this illustrious professor, who has had a most distinguished career, and who in December celebrated three anniversaries,—that of his professorship, as director of his asylum, and as editor of the *Rivista Sperimentale di Freniatria*.

NORWAY.

By Dr. M. HOLMBOE.

Since my last report (in 1898) to this JOURNAL no important changes have taken place in the care and treatment of the lunatics in this country.

At the end of the year 1900 a general census was taken, and on this occasion the insane and the idiots were specially enumerated. The results of this census have not as yet been elaborated and published, and accordingly cannot be communicated here.

Since 1898 only one new asylum has been opened, viz., the private asylum of Dr. Dedichen at Trosterud, about five kilomètres east of Kristiania. The asylum accommodates 58 patients, exclusively of the prosperous classes, and is therefore arranged to afford greater comfort than our State asylums, which are chiefly arranged for poor patients. Royal authorisation for the asylum was given on September 28th this year.

The Criminal Lunatics Asylum in Trondhjem, mentioned in my last "Retrospect," has been enlarged to about double its size—it can now accommodate 30 patients.

The accommodation in the Norwegian State asylums at the present time is—Gaustad 340, Eg 260, Rotvold 275, the Criminal Lunatics Asylum in Trondhjem 30; and in the municipal and private asylums—Kristiania 120, Oslo 40, Kristiansand 21, Bergen 240, Trondhjem 280, Rosenbergs 175, Moellendal 73, Dr. Dedichen's 58—total being 1714.

The new State Asylum Roenvik, at Bodoe, is completed, and will

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.48.200.137 Published online by Cambridge University Press