and delusions of persecution, but such signs are rather accessory, and invariably grow on a ground of primordial degeneration. The cardinal symptoms are want of affection and impulsiveness. Orestes had been a lunatic and a member of the family of Atrides, a race of unfortunates, degenerates, and criminals.

Delusions resulting from Jealousy.—Dr. Victor Parant, a son of the well-known director of the private asylum of Toulouse, made a special study, in his inaugural thesis, of delusions of this type. They may, or may not, be systematised. The delusions without systematisation make their appearance in degenerate states, in neuroses (hysteria, epilepsy, neurasthenia), in alcoholism, cocainomania, mania, melancholia, and organic disorders of the brain. The delusions of jealousy which appear among old people seem to be more common than one might believe according to the published cases, and Dr. Victor Parant gives, as a reason of the fact, that old people, when they are not dangerous, generally remain at home, instead of being sent to an asylum; consequently their delusional tendencies are unknown out of the family. It is an early symptom in senile dementia. The author divides the systematised delusions of jealousy as follows: (*a*) primary; (*b*) secondary; (*c*) idiopathic. The most common variety is as follows:—Adult people present delusional ideas primarily, and not as the result of affective disorder. The ideas are accompanied by sensorial disorders, the prodromata are slight and short, there is a period of irritable depression, and the delusion makes its appearance, and it is generally a fear of conjugal infidelity. At the beginning the patient presents a mere anxiety, afterwards a suspicion, finally the delusion becomes fixed. Hallucinations of hearing are most frequent; hallucinations of sight are uncommon. These cases do not generally commit suicide, but they often kill their conjoint.

Systematised delusions secondary to mania, melancholia, *folie à double forme*, neuroses, and intoxication are well known. The last variety is composed of people affected with a morbid jealousy, and who remain their whole life presenting the type of *persécutés-persécuteurs*. They are hereditary degenerates, with stigmata and abnormalities of morals and of temperament. Their delusions are due to false reasoning. They are considered as lucid and are found outside asylums, although they are the worst of lunatics.

GERMANY.

By Dr. J. BRESLER.

The treatment of the insane without isolation in side rooms has received much attention in Germany (Kalmus, *Zellenlose Behandlung;* Halle, Marhold, *Psychiat. Wochensch.*, No. 49, 1900; Bresler, *ibid.*, No. 10, 1901; Hoppe, *ibid.*, No. 30, 1901). The general conclusion is that such confinement is to be avoided as much as possible, but that it is quite the right treatment in some cases.

At the annual meeting of German alienists held at Berlin, April, 1901, several important subjects were discussed. *The family care of*

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the insane was considered. Its adoption in several forms under the supervision of alienists was noted. It could be used with advantage during convalescence, and was perhaps more suitable and offered more chances for recovery in certain cases than treatment within the wards of an asylum. The patients boarded out can be treated from the neighbouring asylum, and cases arising quite locally need not be removed from home. If the patients cannot be under the supervision of the asylum staff they should be visited by inspectors specially trained in lunacy. Finally, its adoption would tend to dissipate some popular notions regarding lunatics.

Heilbronner summarised the pathological changes in the nerve-cell, which have been reported to occur in the various functional psychoses. He concluded that there were none definite for any one mental disorder, indeed it was impossible to distinguish a sane from an insane brain. He dismissed the numerical valuation of nerve-cells in the same way.

An important paper was that of Professor Sommer, of Giessen, on "A Three Dimensional Estimation of Motor Disturbances in Nervous and Mental Diseases." (*a*) An apparatus for the graphic recording of the disturbances of the frontalis muscle; (*b*) an apparatus for the exact measuring of pupil disturbances which can be used with either electric, gas, or petroleum illumination; (*c*) an arrangement for estimating the knee-jerks, clonuses, spasms, tremors, etc. (*vide Psychiat. Wochensch.*, No. 9, 1901).

Drs. Bleuler and Delbrück have published articles discussing the "Relationship between Asylums and Alcoholics." There appears to be no doubt that the physicians and attendants of asylums who treat cases due to excessive indulgence of alcohol should be total abstainers. The anti-alcoholic notion has many partisans in Germany in our branch of medical science.

We are to be much congratulated on the fact that the Government, in May, made *psychiatry a compulsory subject in the medical curriculum*. New rules have been enacted by the Government in Prussia (March 26th, 1901) regarding private asylums, the mode of reception and discharge of patients, the economic administration, the medical service, also as regards attendants, etc. An Act has also been passed forbidding the discharge of a dangerous lunatic until the police, after inquiring into the domestic surroundings of the patient, have given their permission.

HOLLAND.

By Dr. F. M. Cowan.

An important event in the year has been the meeting of an International Congress for Criminal Anthropology at Amsterdam. I leave the various discussions and papers to be dealt with in another part of this Journal. It is generally admitted that an efficient staff of attendants and nurses is indispensable in the treatment and care of the insane. This important point has been the subject of an exhaustive and lengthy report in our Journal. A number of questions were drawn up and

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