

develop; signs of neuritis were absent. Physical signs of general paralysis were present, and he died in convulsions after a year's residence in the asylum. *Post-mortem* his brain showed the lesions of general paralysis with, on the left side, a zone of interstitial hæmorrhage limited to the grey matter of the cortex of the external occipital convolutions.

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*Automatic Parricidal Impulse in Puberty* [*Impulso automatico al parricidio nell'epoca pubere*]. (*Ann. di Freniat.*, vol. *xxi*, fasc. 3, Sept., 1911.) Marro.

The observation recorded in this paper is of some criminological interest. The patient to whom it refers was a youth between sixteen and seventeen years of age, the son of an alcoholic father, but otherwise without special hereditary taint. When nine years old he had a severe head injury, which left a depression over the upper parietal region on the right side. After this accident the boy complained constantly of sensations of heat in the head, and he was noticed to be a good deal slower at his lessons. With the onset of puberty he became subject to periodical headaches, and he also contracted the habit of masturbation. One morning, while engaged in helping his mother in the household work, he suddenly threw a slip-noose over her head, dragged her to the ground and tried to strangle her. After a struggle lasting nearly a quarter of an hour he became quieter, sighed deeply two or three times, got very flushed in the face, went on his knees and said, "Mother, forgive me; I don't know why I did it." He then ran away, and was found some hours later in the fields. When questioned about the affair he said that the idea of the crime came into his head quite suddenly two days before. To get it out of his mind he went to a cinematograph, and was free from the obsession for a time. It recurred, however, and early in the morning of the day of the attempt he heard a voice telling him to strangle his mother with a noose, to take her money and go to the gaming-house with it. At the same time he saw a sheet of paper before his eyes with the same exhortation printed on it. The idea continued to beset him till he made the attempt. The boy was not specially fond of gambling, and he had some money of his own at this time. Discussing the case, Marro points out that the clearness of consciousness excludes the hypothesis of epileptic automatism, which might be suggested in view of the head injury and the periodic headaches. The influence of alcohol could also be ruled out. In the absence of any indications of more persistent mental disorder, the author concludes that the impulsive automatism shown by the patient was an exaggerated manifestation of the physiological instability of puberty, and he considers, therefore, that the prognosis of the case should be favourable.

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*Studies on the Circulation of the Blood in the Insane* [*Études sur la Circulation Sanguine des Aliénés*]. (*Bull. de la Soc. Med. de Belgique*, April, 1911.) De Somer, E.

This article is a preliminary communication on the influence which rest in bed exercises on the splanchnic vessels and also on the heart's