those with cardiovascular disease may react to a poison in an entirely different manner from men in the prime of life. Nowhere else is the correct diagnosis so important for prophylaxis as with industrial poisoning. Sickness which is exclusively or predominantly traceable to a toxic acting substance ranks with industrial accidents in the Swiss law. Anthrax and glanders, on the other hand, have been dropped from the list for the present, but yellow fever, malaria, typhus and relapsing fever, befalling Swiss workmen in the employ of a Swiss firm anywhere are regarded as entitling to insurance benefit, as they are the result of insect bites. Some of the private insurance companies have already paid indemnities to policyholders who had contracted typhus during the war.

In concluding this comprehensive study of ways and means to discover the causal connection in the insurance sense, Zangger warns of the danger of crime and suicide being managed so as to present the evidence of an accident entitling to insurance money. He relates instances in which the criminals were actually being paid by the state for their crime, as when a woman caused the death of her husband by closing the damper in the stove. In several such cases, some causal circumstances first suggested suspicion, not the physician's report. The physician had accepted matters as he had found them on the surface. The identity of the corpse must be verified, as otherwise the indemnity might be paid for some policyholder who had merely left the country. He has had occasion to examine eight cadavers in which death occurred in an epileptic seizure. The mouth and nose in one case were plugged with the wet sand in which the body was lying, and the tongue had been bitten, but the family denied that the man was an epileptic. Inquiry in his home town in Italy revealed that he had long been subject to epilepsy. In conclusion, Zangger reiterates that the Swiss social insurance is on a more comprehensive scale than in any other country. It places great authority in the hands of physicians, and its success depends on them and especially on their report at the first examination.

IV. FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

Bowers, Paul E. THE CRIMINAL INSANE AND INSANE CRIMINALS.
[Am. Jl. Insanity, 74, 1917, No. 1.]

Many insane persons are being annually sent to prison to be punished for acts which are symptomatic expressions of unrecognized mental disease, while on the other hand sane criminals are sent to hospitals for the insane, because they are sharp enough to feign insanity. What is worse, dangerous insane persons are constantly being released upon the community, because they have been found not guilty since being insane they are held legally incapable of committing crime.

An unfortunate individual not infrequently commits a crime during

a recurrent episode of periodic insanity and is brought to trial during his well interval, hence is found sane and responsible.

Nevertheless the liberation of the victim of such disease is a dangerous matter for the community since who can tell when he may have another exacerbation and commit another crime.

The author, who is superintendent of the Indiana Hospital for Insane Criminals, finds that the three most important forms of mental alienation which lead to crime are epilepsy, paranoia and feeble-mindedness.

In epilepsy, an important point when called to consider responsibility for an act said to have been committed in pre- or postepileptic delirium, was the act in line with the habitual occupation of the individual? For example it would not be unnatural for an epileptic butcher to make an assault with a knife, while a poisoning by such an individual, we should be slow to regard as an expression of epilepsy. The paranoiac furnishes us with a large quota of crimes, probably the majority of them traceable to his delusions of persecution, or through expansive delusions of being called upon to act as the agent of God. The feeble-minded are especially addicted to crimes characterized by brutality and to sexual offences, although they are often cunning thieves too. Many pyromaniacs are feeble-minded. About 10 per cent. of the average prison population is insane. The felonies of the insane and mentally defective show a high percentage of crimes against the person. Among 169 insane prisoners 43 were murderers, 16 were convicted of assault and battery with intent to commit murder, 25 were burglars, 11 were convicted of rape or attempt at rape and 4 were convicted of sodomy. The ordinary hospitals for the insane are not suitable for insane criminals or malingerers, but an institution of special construction with a disciplined corps of attendants is needed.

C. I. ALLEN (Los Angeles).

Adler, Hermann M. OBSERVATIONS ON CRANIAL ASYMMETRY. [Am. Jl. Insanity, 74, 1917, No. 1.]

The author examined 1,000 patients at the Danvers State Hospital by means of the "Conformateur," the tracing apparatus used by hatters, and found that of them, 281 or 28 per cent. showed no marked asymmetry, while 719 presented marked asymmetry. Of 86 employees examined, only 5 showed marked asymmetry. He has usually found a greater prominence in the right parietal region in right-handed persons. It seems probable that asymmetry means an unequal development, and the author has gained the conviction that asymmetry indicates a variation from type, either in the direction of genius or in that of defect.

Marked asymmetry is a constant phenomenon in asylums and in criminal courts. The author has seen no cases of dementia præcox with the exception of the simplex or catatonic groups, which have not shown marked asymmetry.

C. L. ALLEN (Los Angeles).