tions. But the two authors have based their conclusions upon entirely different cases. No doubt in some cases Lloyd's views will prove correct. The entire subject needs further careful study. Possibly, too, when all the facts are known, we may find that electrical tests will not furnish points of differential diagnosis between neuritis and anterior poliomyelitis.

CASE III.—Female; æt. 23. Eleven days after confinement, septic fever lasting for nearly two months. At the end of this time, patient developed atrophic paralysis in the partial distribution of ulnar and median nerves, with some partial and some complete R. D. Violent pains in arms. Pain on pressure over nerve trunks; transient paresis and paræsthesiæ of legs, possibly septic endocarditis; complete recovery within little more than a year. Case is interesting as an instance of multiple neuritis developing in the wake of a tangibly infectious disease.

CASE IV.—Man; æt. 21. Was given an hypodermic injection of ether into the upper third of left forearm. In a few days patient developed typical musculo-spiral paralysis. Complete R. D. in entire distribution of the nerve. No very marked sensory symptoms, but considerable subjective pain. Recovery within a few months. This accident suggests a way in which neuritis might be studied experimentally. B. S.

MENTAL PATHOLOGY.

Cases of Microcephalon Caused by Psychical Influences during Pregnancy. PROF. C. LOMBROSO. (*Arch. di Psichiatria, Scienza Penale ed Antropologia Criminale*. Vol. VII. Fasc. II. 1886.)

The first case reported by Dr. Lombroso is that of a microcephalic idiot, aged 7, whose mother, a healthy and fine contadina, aged 20 at the time the child was born, was frightened by a large ape in the first months of her pregnancy. The impression made was profound and remained for a long time. The father and sisters of the child were robust and healthy.

The second case is that of a youth of 20, exhibiting retarded development, looking not more than 15. His three brothers were healthy, although small of stature, as were both father and mother. He did not walk until 7. He did not make gestures or pronounce an intelligible syllable until he was 12. He showed great signs of fear and exhibited great cruelty to animals. His skull was asymmetrical and the cranial capacity much less than normal.

His mother suffered from a great fright some time between the third and sixth month of her pregnancy from seeing a soldier threatening to split the head of her husband with a sickle. From that time she was in a state of fear, with trembling, cramps in her members, without appetite, and a sense of cold throughout her body.

Prof. Lombroso thinks that psychical origin of an embryonal deformity is not at all inadmissible when one considers the persis-

tence of this opinion through centuries, and also that the modern theory of mental suggestion offers an explanation of this influence and shows the parallelism between powerful psychical impressions and physical modifications.

GRACE PECKHAM.

Contracts with the Insane, Wills of the Insane, and Testamentary Capacity. DR. CHARLES K. MILLS. (*Medical and Surgical Reporter*, Philadelphia, July, 1886.)

Dr. Mills, in a series of lectures on insanity, delivered at the University of Pennsylvania, thus refers to business, marriage, and other contracts with the insane.

"The validity of civil contracts made by the insane, like so many other questions pertaining to insanity, must be decided largely by the circumstances surrounding the particular case. While we have decisions and laws relating to matters of this kind, yet these are not so absolute, and are not rendered so closely after previous cases, but that doubts may arise in a particular case. The mere fact of the existence of insanity will not always invalidate a contract. The particular circumstances surrounding such a case must always be taken into consideration. If a merchant, although insane, made a contract, and if the party with whom the contract was made would be the loser if it was not fulfilled, the law in all probability would hold the firm to which the insane man belonged liable. In one of the cases I have alluded to, the firm did not attempt to get out of their contracts, although they involved considerable loss. Some American cases hold that there can be no recovery against lunatics in cases of this kind. In certain English cases, which will be found in the ordinary text-books, the opposite has been held. When it can be shown that an individual took advantage of an insane person to make a contract in his own favor, the courts would decide against the contract.

"A person who had been declared to be insane by an inquisition or commission could not, I suppose, be held responsible in a court for any contract; but in other cases it would be largely a question of argument before a jury, and of special decision by the judge.

"Let us now briefly consider the question of marriage contracts, in the case of the insane. The law recognizes insanity as an impediment to marriage. The insane person is in a condition similar to that of an infant under the law, that is, one who has not reached the age of 21 years. A marriage contract with a lunatic whose insanity has been legally or generally recognized would not be held to be valid, yet various cases arise in which marriage contracts with the insane are considered valid.

The "Rhineland case" was of some interest in connection with the question of marriage contracts, as well as in other respects. Mr. Rhineland is a member of one of the wealthiest families of New York, and is alleged to be insane. From the accounts which I have read in the newspapers, and in one or two