

over; in both cases it is only the episodic symptom that has passed off, the disease remains with its practical certainty of similar explosions in the future.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Provision for the Criminal Insane. (Albany Med. Ann., July, 1899.) Allison.*

This is an eminently common-sense address, delivered at the American Prison Congress of 1898 by the Medical Superintendent of the Matteawan State Hospital. Dr. Allison advocates strongly the doctrine that insane persons should be held wholly irresponsible in law, and maintains that this doctrine in its widest application offers the best guarantee of safety from insane criminal acts. He combats the popular prejudice that the plea of insanity in criminal cases is a subterfuge to save the evildoer, and points out that, on the contrary, its admission serves the interests of the community, since it implies as a corollary that the insane persons shall be kept indefinitely under restraint, and not released after a long or short term of imprisonment to commit fresh crimes.

From the same point of view he criticises the present mode of dealing with the mentally defective criminals, who form a large part of the prison population in every country; penal treatment effects no improvement in their condition; they are a source of trouble in ordinary prisons; and when at large they are dangerous. In the interest of society it is to be desired that they should not be regarded as fully responsible, that they should not be removed from penal discipline, and detained indefinitely in special institutions.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*A New Case of Sexual Perversions [Un nouveau cas de perversions sexuelles]. (Gaz. des Hôp., April 2nd, 1901.) Garnier and Wahl.*

The patient is a male, æt. 26, with neuropathic heredity on both sides—father eccentric, mother hysterical and somnambulist. He presents numerous stigmata of degeneracy—marked facial asymmetry, Gothic palate, feminine development of hips. As a child he was odd and introspective. When about fifteen years of age he showed the first signs of sexual perversion, becoming fascinated by a theatrical poster representing a fashionably dressed woman, and subsequently developed fetichism of dress fabrics, particularly velvet, silk, and lace, and collects objects of this sort which had been used in the dress of women, children, or even dolls. He provokes sexual orgasm with these objects, keenest when he tears them in the act of pseudo-coitus. He has a strong repulsion to normal sexual intercourse. He has extravagant pretensions as a poet and inventor; his mental level is low, and he is incapable of sustained work of any kind.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

*Alcoholism and Crime [Juristische Briefe; IV. Alkoholismus und Verbrechen]. (Allgem. österreich. Gerichts-Zeitung, 1901.) Benedikt.*

In the first part of the paper, the author expresses his dissent from the current views of the unfavourable action of moderate doses of alcohol on nervous function. Discussing the question of excess, he