

form (for if we do not trust to something clinical we shall, as Tamburini has before said, confound mental diseases with epilepsy),—when, as I was saying, there is not a clinical epileptic form, but instead of this an epileptoid excitability, we have a moral lunatic who, instead of having unconscious impulses, catches the first image that crosses his mind; right or wrong he believes himself injured, right or wrong he believes himself despised; but there is a psychical reason, a moral reason, for which he ordinarily commits crime, differently from the true epileptic, who attacks and offends without any reason. The epileptic offender is not a moral lunatic, because, when explosion is given in that act, which is a phenomenon of epilepsy, he returns to himself, he has the moral sense, and he understands that he has done wrong; but an image which crossed his mind, sufficed that, suddenly, without first submitting it to his judgment, and without confronting it with other ideas and sentiments, as a person in his natural moral and intellectual life would do, the explosion of his excitability took place, and he committed violence. But is such a person immoral? He is not immoral, he has not perversion of the moral sense. But there are others who do not see things as a man of our civilized epoch should regard them; they know right and wrong, justice or injustice; and then along with this moral disorder there is an excessive emotivity; any reason whatsoever suffices that these individuals, being unable to counterpoise to the stimulus the moral sentiment, shall commit such acts as will bring them into the criminal courts. We have many examples; individuals who are deliberate and obstinate forgers, others who, though possessing the highest intelligence, commit the most shameful acts; for example, *Bacon*, as intellectually estimated, a genius, yet became the accuser of his benefactor; a person such as he was who, with a powerful intellect, that might have ruled the world of politics, was yet the vilest of men, not only in the ingratitude which he showed towards his benefactor, but because he was really imbecile and vile in all his public