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Original Communications.

THE PULMONITIS OF PARALYTICS AND DEGENERATION OF THE VAGI NERVES.

By DR. BIANCHI,

Director of the Psychiatric Clinique of the University of Palermo.

*Translated and Abstracted by Dr. Joseph Workman, Toronto.*

We are indebted to the illustrious author for a copy of the above very interesting brochure, containing 42 pages, and illustrated by three beautifully executed plates. Dr. Bianchi is well known as one of the most assiduous cultivators of experimental physiology and general pathology of the present day. It would be no unpleasing labor to turn into English the whole of his present valuable contributions to the rational practical study of the influence of nerve degeneracy in the etiology of a disease, which, up to the present, has continued to be a *quasi opprobrium medicince*. We allude to that now too widely extending malady, known to alienistic physicians under the designation of *general paralysis*, or, more appropriately, *general paresis of the insane*. Italian psychiatrists name it *progressive paralysis*, which is an improvement on the misleading English title, yet not unobjectionable, for, as Dr. Christian has contended, actual *paralysis* has never been observed in its course, before the final supervention of lethal prostration, or absolute coma.

In prosecuting his study, Dr. Bianchi experimented pretty freely on rabbits and dogs, and he availed himself of the instructive clinical and pathological materials furnished by the Palermo