

puberty. I do not question his observances, but I do not know whether these cases really belong to moral insanity. If they have been cases which were observed in past times, when the conception of moral insanity was not so nice as it now is, I might have some doubts of the accuracy of the diagnosis; if they have been cases recently observed, since a great revolution has taken place in the conception of moral insanity, especially through the researches of the criminal anthropological school, I confess I am ignorant of them. According to our views moral insanity is a congenital form; this does not exclude cases in which moral insanity may follow some grave injury, that has fallen on the brain even during its early phases of development; it has not been said that moral insanity must be hereditary, it may indeed be a purely embryonal, or a foetal form, it may be a form that is developed in the first years of life, but it suffices for us that the associate development of the fibres, the total development of the cells that constitute the web of the gray substance, the histo-genesis of the nervous development, has not been completed,—this is enough for us. We all know, as to puberty, that at this time of life development has not been completed I have referred to the researches of Flechsig; we all know them, we know that at a certain time in life those paths of association which constitute the heritage of all adult persons, have not yet been established; it is then evident that in infancy, that is, in the period in which the greatest ferment takes place in the development of the nervous centres, there very well may be histological modifications, not in the pathological, but in the teratological sense of the term, for example, from injuries to the head, etc., and in this way we might explain those very rare cases, which may have been developed after the causes mentioned by Prof. Verga. But, I repeat it, if such cases belong to the time anterior to the conception of moral insanity of which I have spoken, I would say, as we are now in cholera times, let them be put