not been revealed by the present case. The choroid plexuses were negative for spirochætes."

The article is illustrated by a series of excellently reproduced photo-micrographs. WM. MCWILLIAM.

"*Mastix-Lumbotest*" *as a Diagnostic Reagent for the Cerebro-spinal Fluid for Use in Psychiatric Institutions* [*Mastix-Lumbotest als Liquordiagnostikum für Psychiatische Heilanstalen*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens., No.* 7, *February* 18, 1928.) *Emanuel, G., and Rosenfeld, H.*

The colloidal mastic test was originally introduced by Emanuel in 1915, but the difficulty of making up the reagent has hitherto prevented its widespread use as a clinical test. The authors now describe the use of a standard preparation obtainable under the above trade-name from their laboratory. The reagent is supplied in two solutions: (1) A standard alcoholic solution of mastic, and (2) a diluting fluid, suitably buffered, of constant composition. The method of carrying out the reaction is very similar to that used in the familiar colloidal gold reaction and readings are recorded in the same way, the figures denoting degrees of turbidity and precipitation. The results are in general agreement with those obtained by other tests; it is said to be more sensitive than the colloidal gold reaction in the differential diagnosis between general paralysis and other types of cerebral syphilis. A. WALK.

A Simple Method of Preparing Micro-photographs [*Eine einfache Methode zur Anfertigung von Mikrophotogrammen*]. *Psych.-Neurol. Wochens., No.* 10, *March* 10, 1928.) *Meyer, F.*

The method consists in using the microscope as a projection in a dark room and replacing the screen by a photographic plate. The microscope is placed horizontally, the mirror removed and a powerful opal glass electric lamp clamped in its place. The whole is enclosed in a black cardboard box. The plate enclosed in a cassette, is hung on the wall at a suitable distance. Focusing is done by means of the coarse and fine adjustments of the microscope itself, the eyepiece of the microscope being covered with a red glass cap. No general rule can be laid down as to exposure, which must be determined separately in each case. A. WALK.

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5. Treatment.

Preliminary Results in the Treatment of Schizophrenia by Malarial Inoculation [*Premiers Résultats du Traitement Paludéen dans la Schizophrénie*]. (*L'Encéph., November*, 1927.) *Wizel, A., and Markuszewicz, R.*

After commenting on the origin of the treatment of psychotic conditions by the artificial production of fever, the authors proceed to a description of 27 cases of schizophrenic conditions treated by

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malarial infection. Of these cases 19 were chronic and included hebephrenic, katatonic and paranoid types, 4 were intermittent and of some standing, and 4 were acute.

In the chronic cases no satisfactory results were obtained. In the intermittent cases remissions occurred lasting over several months. In the acute cases, which are described in full, very successful results are reported. The ætiology of schizophrenia with special reference to the influence of syphilis—which the authors deny—is discussed in relation to the *rationale* of the treatment, which is, however, still obscure. R. S. GIBSON.

Experiments with Saprovitan [*Versuche mit Saprovitan*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, *No.* 12, *March* 24, 1928.) *Blume, C.*

The author treated a number of cases of general paralysis, cerebral syphilis and schizophrenia by intravenous injections of saprovitan, a preparation containing living bacteria, which produces a rapid rise of temperature with rigors. The method appears to be free from danger. Of 7 paralytics thus treated 1 (an advanced case in poor condition) died, 1 was greatly improved and was discharged, 1 unchanged and 4 considerably improved. The schizophrenics treated were all women suffering from acute psychoses of sudden onset, mostly of the katatonic type. Of 24 cases, 6 were completely cured, 8 were improved and 10 unchanged. Although spontaneous cures are well-known in these conditions, improvement only occurs in about 20% of all cases, whereas the treated cases showed improvement in 58%. The author concludes that saprovitan should be given a further trial with a view to determining more definitely the indications for its use. A. WALK.

On the Use of Hypnotics [*Über Schlafmitteltherapie*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, *No.* 13, *March* 31, 1928.) *Stroomann, G.*

In spite of the extensive use of psychotherapeutic methods in inducing sleep, hypnotics still play an important part in the treatment of neuroses and psychoses. Our knowledge of the action of hypnotics must, however, be revised in the light of recent advances in physiology and pharmacology. New conceptions on the physiology of sleep have resulted from the study of epidemic encephalitis. Sleep may be defined as inhibition of cortical activities, with release of the sleep-regulating mechanism in the brain-stem, which includes a sleep-centre and a waking-centre. Electrical stimulation of the brain-stem in the cat may produce sleep, although no exact localization of the sleep-exciting centre can be determined. It is possible that chloretone has a specific action on the brain-stem apparatus, whereas paraldehyde, morphine and bromides act on the cortex. On the biochemical side there is, during sleep, a marked diminution of the blood-calcium, which is displaced into the nervous tissues and appears in increased amount in the cerebro-spinal fluid. A useful method, elaborated by Gayer, for comparing the action of hypnotics is described; this consists in noting the effect of the drug

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