

normal accommodation more frequent than abnormal ; but in the second, and more so in the third stage, abnormality is the rule. Abolition is commoner in the late stage. In more than a third of the remissions there was abnormality. Certain differences in the accommodation reflex are found in the various forms of the disease ; it is more often and more profoundly altered with conditions of excitement. As regards the ætiology the reflex was always found abnormal in traumatic general paralysis ; next in frequency (*i. e.* after abnormality of reflex) comes the alcoholic form. Alteration of the reflex is common with cases at the extreme ages of incidence of the disease (after fifty and below thirty). Accommodation was more often and more profoundly affected in the first two stages of general paralysis in proportion to the impairment of motor power. The investigation of the accommodation reflex on account of its frequent and early alterations may be helpful in the diagnosis of doubtful cases, but it affords no indication as to the slow or rapid evolution of the disease.

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*Observations on General Paralysis at the Clinique of the University of Moscow [La paralysie générale d'après les données de la clinique psychiatrique de l'Université de Moscou]. (Arch. de Neurol., No. 81, Sept., 1902.) Soukhanoff and Gannouchkine.*

Out of a total of 3916 cases of insanity (2493 male and 1423 female) observed at the Moscow Clinique for Mental Diseases between November, 1887, and January, 1901, there were 682 of general paralysis—590 men and 92 women ; so that nearly 25 *per cent.* of the male and 6.57 *per cent.* of the female cases were general paralytics. The proportion is larger in recent years than in the earlier years of the foundation of the clinique. The greater number of cases in men were between thirty-six and forty years of age ; in the case of women the commonest age is thirty-one to thirty-five years. The authors give notes of three cases of juvenile general paralysis. Various tables of classification dealing with occupation, nervous heredity, alcoholic inheritance, presence of syphilis, etc., are given, and the following are some of the authors' general conclusions:—General paralysis is uncommon or even rare in the case of farm labourers. The importance of heredity is great in the case of general paralysis, as in other psychoses or mental diseases. Syphilis was present in more than 75 *per cent.* of the cases, and in 90 *per cent.* of these there was an interval of from six to twenty years between the date of infection and the appearance of morbid symptoms. Alcoholism is of importance in the ætiology of general paralysis in men ; in over 60 *per cent.* there is a marked history of abuse. The demented form of general paralysis was observed in half the male cases, the maniacal form being next in frequency. In women two thirds of the cases were of the demented type, and a quarter of the maniacal. The demented type was decidedly commoner in recent years. Concerning certain symptoms especially noted in general paralysis, the authors found that among men exaggeration of the knee-jerks was present in about half the cases, absence in one fifth ; among women exaggeration was found in about 60 *per cent.*, and absence in 15 *per cent.*

As regards the state of the pupils, about one third of the total number of general paralytics presented equality of the pupils, and two thirds inequality; but in nearly four fifths the pupils were either inactive or presented a feeble reaction to light. Apoplectiform attacks were common, and epileptiform attacks rare. H. J. MACEVOV.

*Biography of a Fixed Idea [Biographie d'une idée fixe]. Observation of Casper. (Arch. de Neurol., No. 76, April, 1902.) Casper.*

This is the interesting account of a case, mostly the autobiography of the patient, relating the development of an idea of morbid blushing in a boy, which persisted for years, and finally apparently led to suicide, after the victim had at one time seriously contemplated blinding himself on account of his ereuthophobia. H. J. MACEVOV.

*Notes of a Case of Hystero-Epilepsy with Distinct Crises, Spontaneous Ecchymoses, and Attacks of Hysterical Fever [Note sur un Cas d'Hystéro-Epilepsie à Crises distinctes avec Ecchymoses spontanées et Accès de Fièvre hystérique]. (Arch. de Neurol., No. 77, May, 1902.) Multerer.*

The case is that of a girl *æt.* 18 years, who was admitted into the Mulhouse Hospital on January 11th, 1899. She was illegitimate, and her family history was unknown. From the age of eight she had frequent convulsive attacks, occasionally preceded by an aura (visual), during which there was loss of consciousness, frequent biting of the tongue and lips, and injury to the head, and occasional involuntary micturition (no doubt *epileptic*). At the onset of menstruation she had some nervous disturbance. After admission two small bluish spots were noticed on the right knee; similar ones had apparently been present before, and others were observed on several occasions during her stay in hospital. They were painless, and usually disappeared in a few days. During her stay in the hospital she had several apparently typical epileptic attacks. She was treated with bromide of potassium.

On December 23rd, 1900, she was admitted for the second time. While out of hospital, with the exception of an interval of six months' freedom from fits, she had been about the same. On January 5th and the 13th she, however, developed two attacks, differing from the others in the character of the convulsive movements, and in the second she did not lose consciousness; it was followed by a febrile attack without apparent cause. On the 23rd a second attack of fever. During the next fortnight small, almost painless nodules, with redness of the skin over them, appeared on the arm, on the thigh, and on the calf (left side). On February 8th she had another typical epileptic attack, and three weeks later, after other hysterical symptoms, she had a hysterical fit with convulsions.

The interest of the case is especially in the association of true epilepsy with hysterical attacks—hystero-epileptic attacks appearing in