

*A Study of a Pair of Uniovular Twins, who Diverged in Respect of Schizophrenia* [Ein eineiiges, bezüglich Schizophrenie diskordantes Swillingspaar]. (*Acta Psychiat., et Neur.*, vol. ix, p. 541, 1934.) Wigers, F.

One of the twins has recurrent attacks of a psychosis, which the author diagnoses as schizophrenia; the other twin, who has had a number of similar somatic and psychic traumas, remains normal. The author discusses the possibilities of regarding a psychic trauma which the twins did not share, perhaps venereal infection or an unknown exogenous somatic process, as an exciting cause for the schizophrenia of the twin affected.

S. L. LAST.

*Contribution to our Knowledge of Exogenous Paranoid States* [Beiträge zur Kenntnis der exogenen paranoiden Zustände]. (*Allg. Zeits. f. Psychiat.*, vol. civ, p. 284, 1934.) Dretler, J.

The author describes 13 cases of symptomatic psychoses (e.g., in septic tonsillitis, typhoid fever, etc.), and 7 cases of epidemic encephalitis who passed through paranoid states. He notes the interesting fact that he did not succeed in finding predisposing causes. Heredity did not seem to play any part, and the pre-morbid personalities did not show any paranoid trends. This seems all the more remarkable, as the content of the delusion in the symptomatic psychoses referred to as a rule to experiences which the patient had had before the onset of the illness. The delusions appeared when consciousness was altered. The prognosis is good, the mental symptoms lasting in the symptomatic cases 5-14 days only, but one to several years in encephalitis cases. There was a definite relationship between appearance and disappearance of the delusional states and the somatic symptoms.

S. L. LAST.

*Suicides and Homicides in their Relation to Weather Changes.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 669, Nov., 1934.) Mills, C. A.

The mental changes produced by severe storms are well known. This has a definite bearing on suicides and homicides: a depressed mental state is responsible for the former; uncontrollable irritation is a causal factor in the latter. Weather is much more important than economic conditions. Suicides and homicides are most frequent in districts where pressure and temperature changes are severe and common. The findings indicate that the wide shifts in temperature and pressure which accompany North American storms may play a considerable part in producing mental instability. Suicide cases must not be looked upon as always mentally deranged; but they represent that section of the population which admits its inability to cope with the mental stress of life.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Miller Delusion.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 594, Nov., 1934.) Stone, S.

William Miller, about ninety years ago, preached the approaching end of the present dispensation. His preaching occasioned much stir in New England, and the excitement thereby produced accounted for nearly one-fourth of the current admissions to the New Hampshire State Hospital. Clinical reports of these cases are given. The predominating manic-depressive make-up of the patients lends support to Kraepelin's thesis when he placed the periodic paranoias in the manic-depressive group.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Briggs Law of Massachusetts.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 585, Nov., 1934.) Overholser, W.

This law, enacted in 1921, provides for the examination of certain classes of offenders by neutral and impartial experts. The resulting report is available to both sides; and the right of either side to bring in other experts is seldom exercised. Many expensive trials, with battles of opposing experts, have been avoided, and it is claimed that much has been done in the direction of educating members of the