

The Pathogenesis of Narcolepsy. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psychopathol.*, vol. xiv, p. 1, July, 1933.) Levin, M.

The author considers a knowledge of Pavlov's work essential to an understanding of narcolepsy. The basis of the disorder lies in the undue inhibitability of one or more parts of the brain. When inhibition invades simultaneously the consciousness substrate and the motility substrate, the resulting sleep attack is indistinguishable from ordinary sleep. When inhibition is confined to the substrate of consciousness, the patient is asleep in the ordinary sense of the word, but is restless or performs complex motor acts automatically. When inhibition is confined to the motility substrate the patient is conscious, but unable to move, as in cataplexy and sleep paralysis.

Narcolepsy is really but a symptom of some underlying disease.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Abortive Forms of Epidemic Poliomyelitis [*Formas abortivas de poliomiyelitis epidémica*]. (*Arch. de Neurobiol.*, vol. xiii, p. 315, March-April, 1933.) Lorente, R. A.

At least two forms of abortive or larval poliomyelitis occur. We may have forms without paralysis, characterized by angina, pyrexia, diarrhoea, rigidity of the neck, vomiting, vertigo and tachycardia, lasting for three or four days and clearing up rapidly. We may also have cases which are marked by a transient facial paralysis. Examples of both these varieties may be met with during an epidemic, and their nature is confirmed by examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid. It is of importance to recognize these cases, as they may assist in the propagation of the infection. The interesting question arises whether they are not cases in which some form of immunization is in operation.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Importance of Early Diagnosis in Cerebral Syphilis. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xiii, p. 183, July, 1933.) Baugh, F. H. C.

It is probable that many unexplained transport tragedies may be the result of cerebral syphilis existing in the driver concerned. Adequate periodical examinations should be made on all drivers over thirty-five years of age who are engaged in railway and other forms of transport.

The article also contains remarks upon the eminent men who may be suspected of having been the victims of cerebral syphilis, and an account of the successful campaign against syphilis which has been carried on in the province of Quebec.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

5. Treatment.

New Ways in Psycho-analytic Technique. (*Int. Journ. of Psycho-Analysis*, vol. xiv, p. 321, July, 1933.) Reik, T.

The specific feature of the psycho-analytic technique is the production of a form of shock which can be defined as "surprise". "Surprise is the expression of our struggle against any call upon us to acknowledge something long known to us which has become unconscious." If a faulty construction or erroneous interpretation is offered, a psychic effect may be produced, but there is no "surprise" as used in this special sense of the term, *i.e.*, a reaction to the confirmation of an unconscious expectation. Analysis is essentially a series of these confirmations of unconscious expectations, and the analyst as well as the analysand should be equally prepared for "surprises". The former are warned against setting out to explore unconscious psychic processes with pre-conceived ideas derived from conscious theoretical knowledge. It is this consciously directed attack upon the patient's complexes that is the weakness of the active analytic technique.

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