

ON PROTOPATHIC AND EPICRITIC SENSATIONS.

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PROTOPATHIC sensations, I suggest, are based on impulses containing so much of the factor L that—

- (1) They cannot be accurately localized.
- (2) They persist after removal of their producer (stinging) (1).

Epicritic sensations, on the other hand, are based on impulses containing the adequate L to which adequate H can be supplied. They can thereby be accurately judged, also they subside without persisting after-effects (2).

We observe next that stimulation of sense-organs only capable at threshold activity of producing protopathic sensations should produce "shock" if the stimulus be of such strength as would produce radiating pain elsewhere; or, put differently, shock is produced through them more easily than elsewhere.

It would appear also that pleasurable sensations can radiate as much as, say, the pain of an aching tooth, and the orgasm may be taken as a striking example of a pleasurable sensation arising from a definite area, but containing so much of the factor L that it radiates and cannot be definitely localized.

It should be possible also for changes in pleasurable responsiveness to occur in particular areas of the body, comparable with those of hysterical hyperæsthesia and anæsthesia. Granting this, stimulation of the affected areas, which in the normal individual would give normal pleasure, should give in the abnormal person orgasmic manifestations. On the other hand, areas which normally give orgasmic pleasure should, through the same change, give impulses with so much L as to be beyond the reach of consciousness, and so cease to give pleasure; whence perversion.

References.—(1) Burridge, *Journ. Ment. Sci.*, 1929, lxxv, p. 395.—(2) *Idem, ibid.*, 1930, lxxvi, p. 101.