

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

i. Neurology.

Cephalogyric and Oculogyric Crises with Opisthotonos in a Case of Chronic Epidemic Encephalitis. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, December, 1930.) Notkin, J.

The author comments on the rarity of epilepsy after epidemic encephalitis. He presents a case of a 20-year-old girl who had first a generalized convulsion, and later similar attacks produced by emotional states not unlike those seen in so-called affect epilepsy. The patient had cephalogyric and oculogyric fits with opisthotonos, sometimes as many as twenty in an hour.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Migraine-Epilepsy Syndrome. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, November, 1930.) Ely, F. A.

The author considered the clinical histories of 104 persons suffering from typical migraine, 171 patients with idiopathic epilepsy and 100 normal persons. He found that a constitutional tendency to migraine is transmissible from parent to offspring, and that a migrainous ancestral trend predisposes the offspring to epilepsy. Ancestral epilepsy is a less important predisposing factor of epilepsy in the offspring than has hitherto been believed. Only 14% of epileptic patients had an epileptic heredity compared with 7% in normal persons. A migrainous heredity occurred in 60% of epileptics and 17% normal persons. There is obviously a definite relationship between migraine and epilepsy.

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Electrical Skin Resistance during Hypnosis. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, November, 1930.) Levine, W.

The author compared the skin resistance during the waking state with that during hypnosis in six subjects. He found that the induction of hypnosis does not materially alter the electrical skin resistance. Changes in skin resistance cannot be used as criteria of the presence or depth of hypnosis. From the point of view of skin resistance, hypnosis resembles mild narcoleptic attacks and the after-dinner naps of normal persons, and differs from sleep, catatonic stupor and other states. The palmar electrical skin resistance is an index of alertness and responsiveness rather than of gross muscular tension and relaxation.

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