

fasted much (Kaus thinks there may have been some gastric disorder), and was found dead before a picture of the Madonna.

The conception of genius, as based on organic inferiority, is throughout interestingly developed. HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Jaw-winking [*Sullo "Jaw-winking Phenomen"*]. (*Rev. di Pat. Nerv. e. Ment.*, Oct., 1912.) *Massalongo*.

The already extensive literature of jaw-winking (the bibliography appended to this paper contains over sixty items) is here enriched by Prof. Massalongo with three new cases, bringing the recorded total to forty-three, and an interesting discussion.

In 1883 Marcus Gunn observed a girl, æt. 15, with congenital ptosis on the left side; whenever the lower jaw was depressed and deviated to the right, the left eyelid was suddenly raised, showing the upper portion of the sclerotic. This, the first case ever recorded, was a fairly typical example of jaw-winking. There are, however, numerous variations, and the ptosis need not be congenital, may be very slight, and even non-existent. The name applied to the phenomenon is perhaps not altogether happy. Massalongo would prefer to substitute "paradoxical elevation of the upper eyelid," or, more briefly, the "palpebral paradox" (*paradosso palpebrale*). It is a chronic and incurable affection, occurring chiefly in males.

In the three cases here described, ptosis was only present, and that to a slight degree, in one. In all of them the phenomenon was bilateral and of congenital origin. They were all men, healthy, active, and intelligent (one was of nervous temperament), two of them lawyers, the third an artisan. In all cases it was during meals—and as a rule only at this time—that the phenomenon was manifested. One, however, played the clarinet, and the movements of the jaw thus involved produced the same effects. It occurred in drinking as well as in eating. The eyelids would be suddenly and spasmodically raised, revealing the white sclerotics, and imparting an air of ferocity not corresponding to the real character of the men. In one case the phenomenon only occurred when the subject was eating with great appetite or ingesting a favourite food. In another case it was so pronounced that the subject wore smoked glasses when taking his meals at a restaurant to avoid attracting public attention.

Various explanations of the phenomenon have been put forward. The most usual and plausible explanation is that we are here concerned with an abnormal innervation of the elevator of the eyelid, which, instead of coming from the third pair, is connected with the trigeminal. Massalongo cannot accept this view unconditionally, though he believes that jaw-winking has an anatomical foundation. He regards jaw-winking as the effect of a teratological malformation, representing an atavistic revival of a function of primitive man. He finds the germ of this phyllogenetic theory in the investigations of Harman into the facial-complex of some animals in which the fifth and seventh pairs of nerves have a common origin. Harman's explanation, in so far as it involves the necessity of ptosis and an inevitable association of ptosis with jaw-winking, fails to fit, but it is held to be on the right lines. Jaw-winking

must not be regarded as the result of an accidental morphological anomaly, but as the relic of a definite and complex function, still to be observed in the large felines and in the dog and probably in primitive man, who possessed the same ferocity and voracity. It is "an atavistic return to the feline repast common to the beasts and to man in the Stone Age." The author might better have supported his thesis by demonstrating the habitual presence of the phenomenon in some existing race of savage mankind, or at least among the apes.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

Auto-suggestion. (Rev. de Psychiat., June, 1912.) Bernheim.

Auto-suggestion is not only a suggestion which one makes voluntarily, it is more often a factor which springs up of itself within the brain. Suggestion is always purposeful, and at the same time it has its birth as a result of a stimulus. Just as in the material world there is no such thing as spontaneous generation, so there is no such thing in the psychic world. Every idea or image which has its origin in a sensation—it may be visceral, cardiac, muscular, etc.—but which is "self"-contained, may be described as auto-suggestion. The creative impression may be unknown or subconscious. When the brain is passive, when it is free from the reception of outward impressions, then it is that its automatic activity predominates. An active and attentive brain banishes the products of auto-suggestion as quickly as they are formed. Thus when the brain is dulled, control is lost and dreams arise. So it is that dreams may be described as hallucinatory auto-suggestions. It is known that experimentally we can influence and even create dreams. The natural dream arises by passive suggestion created automatically without the active co-operation of the subject. Dreams are psychic images which arise in the brain as the result of impressions, but which the subject cannot by any effort of will create; his conscious "ego" goes for nothing.

COLIN McDOWALL.

2. Clinical Psychiatry.

Amaurotic General Paralysis [Paralyse générale amaurotique]. (Bull. Soc. Clin. Méd. Ment., March, 1912.) Trenel and Puillet.

Case of a woman, æt. 56, the subject of general paralysis, in whom the most marked symptoms were hallucinations of almost every sense. The knee-jerks were absent on the right, brisk, but of small excursion on the left. Pupils equal, reactions normal, hippus present, optic atrophy. The authors discuss the question whether the association of a hallucinatory state with amaurosis is to be looked upon as a syndrome or merely as a coincidence. Many such cases have been described, in the majority of which a spastic condition was present throughout the disease, but in some, as in this case, the reflexes tended to diminish.

Over twenty years ago Pierret noted the co-existence of mental symptoms simulating general paralysis with tabes, especially of the cervical type. In such cases the delusional state tends to become systematised, and is less incoherent, variable, and demential than that