

progressive. The blood-vessels are little affected, the mesodermal reaction of the acute stage having passed away.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Pinealomas.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) *Globus, J. H., and Silbert, S.*

The authors describe seven personally observed cases of pineal tumours. If the tumours are regarded from a developmental point of view, it is possible to understand their structure, and to keep them all in one common group. They are all autochthonous teratomas. The absence of glial or neuronie elements during the evolutionary stages of the pineal body excludes the spongioblastic or neuroblastic forms of pinealoma. The cellular organization of the pineal body at an early stage of development points to its glandular character, at least for the brief prenatal period, and hence justifies its designation as the pineal gland. The presence of pubertas præcox is not necessary for the diagnosis of pineal tumour.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Origin and Formation of Senile Plaques.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) *Ferraro, A.*

The author concludes that senile plaques may originate from both neuroglial elements and from nerve-cells. The oligodendroglia cells give origin to some of the plaques; the astrocytes do not take any part. The microglia-cells represent an important element from which senile plaques primarily develop. They may also originate from isolated disintegrated nerve-cells or from a collection of such elements. The histochemical process leads to the formation of a granular argyrophile substance, which at times gives in the central portion of the plaque some of the reaction of amyloid substance and at other times the reaction of fat substance. The author has never seen nerve-fibres give origin to senile plaques. Once the plaque is formed, its increase in size and volume depends on the participation of nerve-cells, microglia and astrocytes. The microglia cells contribute the largest increase. The nerve-fibres also participate in the development of the senile plaque through a process of fragmentation and gradual disintegration of the neurofibrils.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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## 5. Treatment.

*The Treatment of Post-Encephalitic Children in a Hospital School.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, March, 1931.) *Bond, E. D., and Appel, K. E.*

The physical disease, encephalitis, caused handicaps which the children were not able to manage psychologically. Nearly all were