

a source of difficulty is the "broken home." In a recent analysis of 200 juvenile delinquents, 101 provided instances of broken homes; this is a much higher proportion than occurs in the history of normal children. These figures do not include many forms of home maladjustments covered by the German expression "Elternkonflikt."

When the acquisitive shortcomings of children under 10 years are considered it is found that they steal mostly articles which minister to the fantasies of childhood. After this age money becomes more desirable because it gives a sense of power and superiority. Flash-lamps and bicycle lamps are favourite articles, as being both useful and saleable.

"Breaking and entering" is simply a manifestation of the gang-spirit, or in other words, the first stirring of those instinctive tendencies towards group action which form the basis of our social life.

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## 2. Psychiatry.

*A Statistical Study of Delusions in the Manic-Depressive Psychoses.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., July, 1931.) Bowman, K. M., and Raymond, A. F.

The delusions found in 1,009 cases of manic-depressive psychosis were studied, with 1,408 cases of schizophrenia and 496 cases of general paresis as controls. The persecutory is the most common type. Marital condition has little to do with the type of delusion. Religion has very little influence. There is a striking correlation between persecutory delusions and auditory hallucinations. There is little correlation between delusions and somatic data. The occurrence of a previous attack appears to have little effect upon delusions.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*A Study of the Behaviour Chart in Cases of Thymergasia.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., July, 1931.) Corson, H. F.

The affective trends found in normal behaviour are present with greater clarity in the thymergasic reactions. "Push" in some degree is wanted for normal behaviour. When "push" exceeds the normal limits in one direction we have hypomanic reactions; when it is more or less in abeyance, we get stupor. Anger, eroticism and over-valuation are closely allied to "push"; sadness may be combined with it. Suicide is correlated most closely with those cases which show the sad trend with fear or "push"—that is, it is less frequent in simple depressive reactions, and more frequent in agitated depressions.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*False Simulations in Medico-Legal Psychiatry.* (Gaz. des Hôp., May 23, 1931.) Fribourg-Blanc, M.

The author states that an erroneous diagnosis of simulation has frequently been made. He mentions that over-simulation may occur, and that an individual who is actually mentally disordered may be aware of this and wilfully exaggerate his disorder. At