On the Mechanism of Gliosis in Acquired Epilepsy. (*Amer. Journ. of Insanity, April*, 1908.) *Southard, E. E.*

As summarised by the author, the theory of epilepsy expounded in this paper is founded mainly upon structural considerations. The histological data have been interpreted largely from a functional point of view. The theory lays claim to some originality in two directions—in setting forth, namely, the properties of a typical epileptogenic focus in the cerebral cortex, and the nature of that change in cortical tissue which favours epileptic discharges. The characteristic feature of a typical prime focus is described as the separation of a normal cell-group from its normal control by other cell-groups, and the impact upon the receptive surfaces of these normal cells of a steady, intimate, abnormal pressure, both segregation and compression effected by neuroglia overgrowth. That feature of cortical tissue which favours the spread of epileptic discharges is described as due to a simplification of cell arrangements, arising in the destruction of controlling elements, with maintenance of motor elements. In the production of both prime focus and the abnormal tissue which permits uncontrolled discharge the neuroglia tissue plays a characteristic part, exerting an active continued pressure in the first instance, and readily permitting lateral discharges and the activation of great groups of motor cells in the second instance.

In the former case, we see a fresh example of the irritative property of heightened tension, only here exhibited quite in miniature. In the latter instance, we are dealing with conditions of still greater theoretical interest, approximating, though with diverse outcome, the loss ot insulation seen in foci of disseminated sclerosis. The findings suggest the widely different effects upon nervous tissues of active and of quiescent gliosis.

The article, which is of great interest and of considerable length, contains several detailed clinical cases and a review of the literature bearing on the subject, and is illustrated by numerous photographic plates of microscopic sections of brain tissue. A. W. WILCOX.

On the Study of Psycho-Glandular Reports [*Introduction a l'Étude des Rapports Psycho-Glandulaires*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat., Sept.*, 1908.) *Lavastine, L.*

Since the time of Buchard the importance of intoxication, especially auto-intoxication, has been fully recognised, and many have been the attempts to elucidate the *rôle* played by them in mental diseases. Owing to the frequent existence of pathological changes in the ductless glands many opinions have been expressed that the mental symptoms which were noted were due to the lesions in these organs or *vice-versâ*, and a large amount of conflicting evidence is the result.

The author, in the above paper, discusses this matter, and he urges the importance of considering the subject from each point of view.

From observation one must first consider whether the case is a clinical entity and whether the ill-effects are due to an internal secretion, either increased, diminished, or vicious, or whether more than one organ is at fault. These results should be confirmed by experimenta-

tion, surgically and physiologically, but the causes of error may be very many, several of which he brings forward. After organo-therapy sero-therapy should be applied to see if the results coincide. Anatomy and pathology research must also be undertaken, for these furnish much valuable information. The interpretation of all of the results must be most carefully considered before one concludes that psychological troubles are due to altered secretions. SIDNEY CLARKE.

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2. Physiological Psychology.

Experimental Research on Suggestibility [*Recherches Expérimentales sur la Suggestibilité*]. (*Arch. de Psych.*, October, 1908.) *Guidi, G.*

This research comprises 217 experimental observations made upon female pupils and teachers at one of the working-class schools of Rome. It was preceded by three previous series of experiments on suggestibility bearing on the lengths of lines, presumably on the model of the researches conducted by Binet, whom the author refers to. He announces his intention of making a further publication to include these and subsequent observations, the present paper being an exposition of his method. The instrument used in these experiments was a cubical box of sheet iron, bearing a small chimney giving it the appearance of a stove. In the centre of one side was placed a hole covered by a button, which was capable of being pushed through the hole and along a passage of sufficient dimensions to admit the index finger. The button was connected with a needle which protruded on the side of the box, and indicated on a scale of 7 cm. the depth to which the button had reached. Each experiment was conducted in a precisely similar manner. A lighted spirit lamp was placed at a short distance from the box, by way of suggesting that the latter had been heated; each subject was instructed to press in the button gently with the index finger of the right hand until a sensation of heat was experienced, when she was told to indicate the same immediately. The excursion of the needle was at the same time noted, and the subject was told to say whether on pushing in the button further the sensation of heat was increased or not.

The results of these observations are given in tabulated form and in diagrams illustrating the number and percentage of suggestible cases in each class and for each year of age, the ages ranging in the pupils from six to fifteen years. These experiments show a considerable increase of suggestibility, as measured by Guidi's instrument, from the seventh to the ninth years, and then a fall; but there is a rise in the number of cases occurring at puberty. The author is inclined to the opinion that there is a diminution of suggestibility relative to the increase in intellectual development. His figures show a percentage of 41·75 in which there was evidence of influence by suggestion, the percentage being highest (62·5) in the ninth year, slowest (21·4) in the thirteenth year. The author claims that his method enables him to measure the degree of suggestibility in different subjects by observing the rapidity with which suggestion is accepted. This, which depends upon the time