

causative factors of suicide, and such knowledge depends upon our possession of far more detailed information than is, at present, provided in the customary statistics.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Encephalographic Studies in Manic-Depressive Psychosis.* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxi, p. 1194, June, 1934.) Moore, M. T., et alia.

The authors examined 38 cases, and found that in the majority the spinal fluid pressure was top normal or higher, indicating the presence of chronic increased intracranial pressure.

The encephalographic pathological condition is manifested by (1) cortical atrophy of varying intensity; (2) enlargement of the ventricular system; (3) asymmetry of the lateral ventricles; (4) absence of cortical air markings; (5) enlargement of the cisterns; (6) atrophy of the island of Reil; (7) enlargement of the sulcus callosi and sulcus cinguli; (8) increased interhemispheric air; and (9) cerebellar atrophy.

None of the encephalographic films showed a normal cerebral pattern.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Involitional Melancholia.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. ciii, p. 13, July 7, 1934.) Werner, A. A., et alia.

The writers studied 41 cases of involitional melancholia. Twenty-one of the women were given 1 c.c. of theelin intramuscularly daily. The rest were used as controls. The improvement in the 21 on theelin was greatly accelerated by the hormone. Possibly larger doses might produce more rapidly beneficial effects. When a favourable response is manifested, the improvement is gradual and continuous. When the patients became more rational it was found that they did better in home surroundings, with the treatment continued for some two months after apparent recovery.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Depressions with Tension.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxii, p. 328, Aug., 1934.) Muncie, W.

The author describes what he calls depression with tension. Tension the patient describes as a feeling of being taut under strain and unable to relax, and it finds expression in statements of dissatisfaction, discontent and in restless, anxious attitudes. The special physiological manifestations belong in part to the phenomena of autonomic imbalance, with evidence of sympathetic preponderance. There are anxiety symptoms referred to the heart. There appear to be definite precipitating factors in an intolerable, or at least not accepted situation. The condition is usually prolonged, and often leaves residuals in the nature of hypochondriac or apprehensive invalidism. Treatment is difficult, because the patient is unable to arrive at a consistent working agreement with the environment, and to face his problems with decision. The author finds the continuous bath, together with barbital in small doses (2.5 gr.) two to four times a day, helpful.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Skin-reaction of Ceni in Chronic Alcoholics* [*La geno-cuti-reazione negli alcoolisti cronici*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xlii, p. 699, Nov.-Dec., 1933.) Perniola, F.

The skin reaction of Ceni which is allied to the von Pirquet reaction, and consists in injecting an aqueous extract of sexual glands under the skin, was applied to 68 chronic alcoholics. It was found to be negative or weakly positive in 94.1% of cases. It was directly related to the mental state of the individual and independent of his physical condition. Twenty-two of the cases gave a weak positive result.

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