

*A Study of a Pair of Uniovular Twins, who Diverged in Respect of Schizophrenia* [Ein eineiiges, bezüglich Schizophrenie diskordantes Swillingspaar]. (*Acta Psychiat., et Neur.*, vol. ix, p. 541, 1934.) Wigers, F.

One of the twins has recurrent attacks of a psychosis, which the author diagnoses as schizophrenia; the other twin, who has had a number of similar somatic and psychic traumas, remains normal. The author discusses the possibilities of regarding a psychic trauma which the twins did not share, perhaps venereal infection or an unknown exogenous somatic process, as an exciting cause for the schizophrenia of the twin affected.

S. L. LAST.

*Contribution to our Knowledge of Exogenous Paranoid States* [Beiträge zur Kenntnis der exogenen paranoiden Zustände]. (*Allg. Zeits. f. Psychiat.*, vol. civ, p. 284, 1934.) Dretler, J.

The author describes 13 cases of symptomatic psychoses (e.g., in septic tonsillitis, typhoid fever, etc.), and 7 cases of epidemic encephalitis who passed through paranoid states. He notes the interesting fact that he did not succeed in finding predisposing causes. Heredity did not seem to play any part, and the pre-morbid personalities did not show any paranoid trends. This seems all the more remarkable, as the content of the delusion in the symptomatic psychoses referred to as a rule to experiences which the patient had had before the onset of the illness. The delusions appeared when consciousness was altered. The prognosis is good, the mental symptoms lasting in the symptomatic cases 5-14 days only, but one to several years in encephalitis cases. There was a definite relationship between appearance and disappearance of the delusional states and the somatic symptoms.

S. L. LAST.

*Suicides and Homicides in their Relation to Weather Changes.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 669, Nov., 1934.) Mills, C. A.

The mental changes produced by severe storms are well known. This has a definite bearing on suicides and homicides: a depressed mental state is responsible for the former; uncontrollable irritation is a causal factor in the latter. Weather is much more important than economic conditions. Suicides and homicides are most frequent in districts where pressure and temperature changes are severe and common. The findings indicate that the wide shifts in temperature and pressure which accompany North American storms may play a considerable part in producing mental instability. Suicide cases must not be looked upon as always mentally deranged; but they represent that section of the population which admits its inability to cope with the mental stress of life.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Miller Delusion.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 594, Nov., 1934.) Stone, S.

William Miller, about ninety years ago, preached the approaching end of the present dispensation. His preaching occasioned much stir in New England, and the excitement thereby produced accounted for nearly one-fourth of the current admissions to the New Hampshire State Hospital. Clinical reports of these cases are given. The predominating manic-depressive make-up of the patients lends support to Kraepelin's thesis when he placed the periodic paranoias in the manic-depressive group.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Briggs Law of Massachusetts.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 585, Nov., 1934.) Overholser, W.

This law, enacted in 1921, provides for the examination of certain classes of offenders by neutral and impartial experts. The resulting report is available to both sides; and the right of either side to bring in other experts is seldom exercised. Many expensive trials, with battles of opposing experts, have been avoided, and it is claimed that much has been done in the direction of educating members of the

bench and the bar. Of the total number of cases examined, 1.7% were found to be insane and 9.3% to be mentally defective. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Alzheimer's Disease.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 485, Nov., 1934.) Roth-schild, D.

Five cases are reported, and the literature is reviewed. There is support for the view that the clinico-pathological picture is a somewhat heterogeneous group, with a different ætiology in individual cases. Although the possibility cannot be excluded that the disease may, in most instances, be caused by the factors operative in senile dementia, yet a close relationship between the two conditions is less frequent than has hitherto been supposed. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Emotional States of General Paresis.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 625, Nov., 1934.) Schube, P. G.

A study of 300 cases is given. It is urged that the general parietic is, usually, not merely a case of cerebral syphilis, but a case of cerebral syphilis plus a psychosis or psychoneurosis. Treatment should be directed not only to the cerebral syphilis, but also to the abnormal emotional state. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Dynamic Aspects of Cardiovascular Symptomatology.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 561, Nov., 1934.) Wolfe, T. P.

Of all psycho-somatic relationships, those bound up with the cardio-vascular system have remained closest to the threshold of consciousness. The affect most closely connected with the heart is anxiety. As anxiety may also produce cardiac symptoms, we are dealing with a vicious circle. It is possible that psychic factors may exert a fatal influence even in the case of a sound circulatory system; this may explain certain deaths under anæsthetics. It may be that hypertension may have a purely psychic origin, and that arterio-sclerosis may be the effect rather than the cause of hypertension. It is noted that muscular relaxation may be more than a symptomatic aid to psycho-therapy. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Physical Mental Relationships in Illness.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 541, Nov., 1934.) Dunbar, H. F.

We are emerging from a period of parallelism in medicine, and are becoming interested in problems of psycho-somatic interrelation. We are learning to distinguish mechanism and cause, and to bring each into a dynamic scheme. Among patients in whom the organic diagnosis is quickly made, the psychic component is often a complicating factor. In many instances the physical symptom represents the patient's last defence, and when it is taken away he is forced to relinquish completely his hold on reality. A complete picture from the organic angle and a complete picture from the psychic angle must be considered, not separately, but superimposed—that is, as a unity. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Neuroses Associated with the Gastro-Intestinal Tract.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 529, Nov., 1934.) Daniels, G. E.

It is a misnomer to think in terms of specific organ neuroses. But certain organs lend themselves particularly well to neurotic expression, and the gastro-intestinal system is often affected. Distinction may be drawn between narcissistic, transference neurotic, and physio- or actual neurotic reactions. For treatment purposes, it is most necessary to determine the narcissistic and transference elements. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Anamnesis of the Toxic Goitre Patient.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 521, Nov., 1934.) Conrad, A.

The toxic goitre patient's emotional life is easy to study because of the instability of the control, especially of the autonomic functions. Emotional pathology