

this paper. Half of these children showed definite physical anomalies. The immediate precipitating factors are usually quite trivial. The prognosis is grave.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Depressive Reactions Related to Parenthood.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) Zilboorg, G.

A considerable group of cases of both sexes was studied by the Freudian method. A strong unresolved incest drive stands as a barrier to parenthood. Some men and women whose infantile attachment to one of their parents is unresolved are automatically protected against marriage; but some of these persons marry, break at the moment when they seem to have achieved their ideal of identification, and choose a psychosis as a compromise. The puzzling problem of why parents hate their children is considered. Given a strong parent-fixation, the child becomes the bodily expression of an elemental sin; the parent projects his own sense of guilt on to the child, and so becomes hostile to the child. Unfortunately, these maladjustments only become clear after a mental illness has developed. The prevention of such illnesses is a task for the future.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Hæmato-Encephalic Barrier; the Diagnostic Value of the Bromide Test in Mental Diseases.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) Katzenelbogen, S., and Goldsmith, H.

Walter's bromide permeability test provides a means of determining a decreased resistance of the barrier. There is a tendency to an increased permeability in the organic psychoses, and a decreased one in schizophrenia. Age does not appear to affect the permeability.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Menopause and Psychosis.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) Farrar, C. B., and Franks, R. M.

Tradition unduly exaggerates the psychotic potential of the climacteric. The fears thus set up lead to troubles for which the menopause must not be held primarily responsible. Of the women who present psychotic or neurotic abnormalities at this period, the great majority have exhibited pre-climacteric psychotic potential. The menopause is a critical period, not only biologically, but often in the life relationships of the individual; any psychosis which may develop is to be regarded as largely reactive to the latter factors.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Sociopathic Behaviour in Women.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, May, 1931.) Partridge, G. E.

The cases of nine women were studied. These women, although not criminal, displayed reactions which were widely at variance with social demands. In each case there had been a difficult mother-child situation, and all the patients showed strongly ambivalent

attitudes towards their mothers. In eight of the nine cases there was evidence of infantile deviation from normal personality. Overt homosexuality was present in one case, and was potential in three others. Guilt feeling was strong in the group, and in some cases appeared to be pleasure toned; the guilt was often projected upon the mother. There was no evidence in favour of the conception of a "moral deficiency."

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Encephalographic Studies in General Paresis. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., March, 1931.) Ebaugh, F. G., Dixon, H. H., Kiene, H. E., and Allen, K. D.*

A group of 70 cases of general paresis was studied, and 97 encephalographies were performed. Arachnoiditis was shown to be cleared up by malarial treatment. Encephalography in careful hands is a safe clinical procedure. The findings are definitely related to the pathology present. Clinical improvement in many cases appears to be closely correlated with the encephalographic findings.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Relation of Time of Day, Sleep, and Other Factors to the Incidence of Epileptic Seizures. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., March, 1931.) Patry, F. L.*

The patients, 31 in number, were placed in three groups, *i.e.*, those in whom the attacks were predominantly diurnal, mainly nocturnal, or occurred at any time; attacks were more frequent in the first two groups than in the third. Two thirds of the patients exhibited "time peaks," *i.e.*, concentration of attacks around certain hours; nine such peaks could be recognized. The pooled fits showed a greater seasonal incidence during the spring months. Mental deterioration was less rapid in the diurnal group, and this group was more liable to *status epilepticus*. A high systolic blood-pressure and a high pulse-pressure were found to be bad prognostic signs.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Pupillary Disturbances in Schizophrenic Negroes. (Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., April, 1931.) Schilder, P., and Parker, S.*

The authors found pupillary changes in catatonia much more frequent in negroes than in white persons. A constitutional factor appears to be essentially responsible, and it is probable that this factor concerns the pupillary apparatus itself. Changes of the so-called catatonic type may be observed in any pupil which is affected by a toxic or an organic lesion of a slight degree. In particular the authors found them in cases of intoxication with alcohol, scopolamine and morphine. The phenomena are due to a coincidence of constitutional psychic and toxic factors.

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