

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

Ankle-Clonus: The Distinction of the Organic and Functional Varieties. (*Brain, June, 1928.*) Lyman, L. S.

Although sustained ankle-clonus is usually considered to be an indication of a lesion involving the pyramidal tract, a more or less regular clonus can be demonstrated on occasion in the absence of other evidence of anatomical affection. These "organic" and "functional" types of clonus may be distinguished by a simple test, consisting of forcible plantar flexion of the homolateral hallux while ankle-clonus is being maintained. If the clonus is checked, an organic lesion in the central nervous system is postulated.

The article opens with an historical review of ankle-clonus and the above-described procedure is discussed. The method and apparatus devised for obtaining graphic records are also given, together with two records by way of illustration.

WM. McWILLIAM.

The Central Nervous Control of Micturition. (*Brain, June, 1928.*) Barrington, F. J. F.

The author concludes that the reflex contraction of the bladder, which occurs through the pelvic nerves as a result of its own distension, arises in the central nervous system at about the level of a plane through the posterior parts of the inferior colliculi dorsally and the middle of the pons ventrally. The author proceeds to examine the reflexes which make up the act of micturition; of these he discusses five, and he ends his paper with a comparative review of the functions and control of the urinary bladder in various mammals, reptiles and fishes.

WM. McWILLIAM.

The Narcolepsies. (*Brain, March, 1928.*) Wilson, S. A. K.

In a paper of wide scope and detail, Dr. Kinnier Wilson treats of the narcolepsies, defining them—for the purpose of the paper—as the hypersomnic varieties of sleep disorder, whatever their ætiology, among which it is convenient to distinguish a combined type corresponding to that so well differentiated by Gélinau.

He describes five "personal cases," discusses classification and varieties, the clinical symptoms, and the relation of narcolepsy to other syndromes, including those of myoplegia, catalepsy, epilepsy and Oppenheim's *Lachschlag*.

Ætiology, pathology, and the localization of the sleep centres are also dealt with.

The bibliography appended embraces some ninety-six references.
WM. McWILLIAM.

Lipodystrophies: Report of Seven Cases. (*Brain*, June, 1928.)
Ziegler, L. H.

In this paper Dr. Lloyd Ziegler deals more freely with the subject than he did in his article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* of March, 1928. Clinical details of seven cases are given at length and photographs illustrate the text.

He discusses the chief ætiological factors of the series under the headings of trophic nerve disturbances, endocrine disturbances, disturbances of fat metabolism, infection, heredity and race, and congenital defect.

A brief reference is made to treatment. WM. McWILLIAM.

A Study of Muscle in Contracture; the Permanent Shortening of Muscles caused by Tenotomy and Tetanus Toxin. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psycho-path.*, April, 1928.) Ranson, S. W., and Sams, C. F.

The object of this research was to determine what change, if any, occurs in the function of a muscle in myostatic contracture. Methods of study and their results are given in detail and data are presented in tabular form. The authors conclude that the height of contraction and the rate of relaxation of a muscle in tetanus contracture are the same whether the muscle is stimulated directly or through its nerve.
WM. McWILLIAM.

Localized Cranial Hyperostosis in the Insane. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psycho-path.*, April, 1928.) Stewart, R. M.

Dr. Stewart in this article gives a detailed description of three cases of localized cranial hyperostosis he has seen during the course of the last fifteen years, and of two examples from museum specimens. He provides photographic illustrations of the skull-cap in all five cases, and, in his own three, photomicrographs of the anterior lobe of the pituitary.

The cases are discussed at some length and the author ends with the opinion that the association of hyperostosis with marked obesity in the insane is symptomatological of a hitherto undifferentiated type of dyspituitarism.
WM. McWILLIAM.

Inhibitory Epilepsy. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psycho-path.*, April, 1928.) Wilson, S. A. K.

Dr. Kinnier Wilson here describes, in great detail, a case in which is illustrated restraint or inhibition of motor centres by epileptic sensory discharges. The description of the fits follows them in all their stages and is very full from the neurological aspect. The patient had no appearance of distress, no difficulty in speaking,