

kept at domestic tasks during boyhood. An ambivalence of interests had resulted in various forms of perversion. He found no pleasure in normal sex union. He had married, with a view to the cure of his perversion, and had, of course, not succeeded. He was aided by analysis to a better understanding of his condition. How far this will assist him on discharge remains to be seen. The utter inadequacy of ordinary punitive measures in a case of this kind is obvious.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Mental Disorders and the Public Health. (Medico-Legal Journ., September-October, 1930.) Cumming, H. S.*

During the past fifty years, the proportion of patients in American State hospitals has increased from 81 to 220 per 100,000 of the general population. The actual number of cases under care has increased nearly six times. The feeble-minded form about 5% of the general population. During the past year, 7 out of every 1,000 prospective immigrants were refused admission because of mental defect. The foreign-born population furnishes the highest proportion of admissions to State hospitals.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Report of Committee on Drug Addiction. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., November, 1930.) Lambert, A., and others.*

The report is based on the study of 318 male patients at Bellevue Hospital, New York. Criminal records were admitted by 83%. Heroin was the drug most frequently used—263 cases. Morphine was taken by 31. Cocaine was recorded in only 4 cases. Physically there was no evidence of appreciable damage. More than half were classed as psychopathic. The quickest way of curing the addiction is that of abrupt withdrawal; the most humane way is gradual withdrawal, spread over 14 days, during which progressively smaller doses of morphine are given. None of the substances forming the basis of so-called specific cures are of any value in ameliorating the withdrawal symptoms. Depressants are ineffective as substitutes for opium derivatives. It is inadvisable to arrange for a course of reduction treatment to be so prolonged that no withdrawal symptoms occur. Criminal and non-criminal addicts should not be treated in the same institution. The prognosis as to ultimate rehabilitation depends upon the integrity of the personality, as well as on the environment to which the patient has to be discharged. Drug addiction is not to be looked upon as a sin, a vice, or a disease; it is, essentially, a response to a psychological necessity.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Cerebral Trauma and its Relation to Mental Deficiency. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1931.) Winkelman, N. W.*

Cerebral trauma plays a part in the deteriorations of adults and the arrested cerebral development of infants. Subarachnoid hæmorrhage calls for repeated spinal drainage. Encephalography