

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