

*An Examination of the Clinico-Pathological Evidence Offered for the Concept of Dementia Præcox as a Specific Disease Entity.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xiii, p. 1039, March, 1934.) Conn, J. H.

After an exhaustive review of the literature on this subject, the author concludes that there are many contradictory opinions on the topic of a uniform anatomical basis to this disorder. There has been no satisfactory correlation between the so-called classical groups of dementia præcox and specific anatomical findings. The same histo-pathological findings which are reported as being specific for these groups are also reported as present in a variety of organic and toxic conditions. Further, there is no uniformity in the clinical views of what constitutes a dementia præcox reaction. The attempts to group these heterogeneous findings into a specific disease entity have proved to be progressively less productive of constructive formulations during a period of fifty years of intensive research.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Schizophrenic States in the Functional Psychoses and in Normal Individuals.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xiii, p. 1214, May, 1934.) Page, J., Landis, C., and Katz, S. E.

The concept of the "total personality" has given us a new orientation in the study of mental disease. A questionnaire consisting of fifty typical schizophrenic behaviour traits, as determined by a consensus of psychiatric opinion, was given to 100 manic-depressives, 125 schizophrenics, and 240 normal individuals. The two latter groups averaged about 18 schizophrenic traits, the manic-depressive group averaged only 14 such traits. Analysis of individual traits failed to reveal a dichotomy of personality types underlying schizophrenic and manic-depressive patients. The research throws doubt upon the hypothesis that the "total personality" is basic in the development of the disease syndrome; either the questionnaire method is not a valid mode of checking the hypothesis, or the hypothesis itself is incorrect.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Concomitance of Organic and Psychological Changes during Marked Improvement in Schizophrenia.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xiii, p. 1349, May, 1934.) Erickson, M. H.

Detailed studies were made for a period of seven months on a patient suffering from schizophrenia, catatonic reaction type. Three distinct psychiatric states were found: stupor, recovery from the stupor, and a condition of apparent recovery from the psychosis. During the stuporous state he was under weight, had diminished oxygen consumption, reduced body temperature, polyuria and delayed colonic emptying time. During the second period he gained weight, manifested a slight increase in body temperature, a slight decrease in oxygen consumption rate, and mild secondary anæmia. During the third period he seemed to have reached the level of his pre-institutional mental state, had gained weight, and showed a normal body temperature and oxygen consumption rate. There was evidence of a pituitary deficiency manifested at about puberty. When more studies of this kind have been made, we may have an answer to the question of functional interdependence.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Mental State in Katatonia [L'état mental au cours de l'accès catatonique].* (Ann. Méd. Psych., vol. xiv (i), p. 317, March, 1934.) Baruk, M.

Patients, in a remission following a katatonic phase, complain especially of having experienced a feeling of mental torpor. They state that their will-power was under control and that the power of spontaneous initiative was lost. Frequently imperative hallucinations or vague delusional ideas are brought forward to explain this feeling. Despite the total absence of directed thinking, there is little impairment of memory fixation. Diminished affectivity is usually experienced, though some