

Malarial Therapy in Non-Syphilitic Psychoses [*Malarioterapia en las psicosis no luéticas*]. (*Archivos de Neurobiología*, vol. xii, Sept.-Oct., 1932.) Bianchini, M. L., and Nardi, J.

Malarial treatment in non-syphilitic psychoses promises positive results. Easy of application and free from drawback, it should be employed as the routine method of treatment in early cases of schizophrenia, in manic-depressive psychosis (preferably in the excited phase), and in all syndromes of cortical psychomotor irritation. In schizophrenia, cures have occurred in 8% of cases and improvements in 16%; the figures for manic-depressive psychosis are 23% and 20% respectively. The mortality, as reported from all parts of the world, works out at 0.77% of all cases, and some of these deaths occurred from causes independent of the malaria. The clinical symptoms produced are similar to those observed in the treatment of general paralysis, and the mechanism of action is probably identical. Transmission of blood from malarialized general paralytics to non-syphilitic patients, or *vice versa*, is quite unobjectionable. The method has proved of no avail in post-encephalitic parkinsonianism and in epileptic psychoses.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

7. Pathology and Biochemistry.

Pathology of Central Nervous System in Diseases of the Liver. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxix, May, 1933.) Crandall, L. A., and Weil, A.

The authors experimented on dogs, producing hepatic damage by ligation of the common bile-ducts and pancreatic ducts, and on rats, producing hepatic damage by ligation of the common bile-duct. They find that following these procedures substances appear in the serum on the fourth day approximately, which act destructively on the spinal cord of rats in test-tube experiments. These toxins are not identical with the lipases, which are increased simultaneously; they are excreted through the choroid plexus or through the walls of the cerebral vessels. The toxic effect is most marked at the place of elimination and highest concentration. Here there is a spongy necrosis of the walls of the ventricles, or foci of oedema and demyelination in the cortex are produced. Proliferation of glia occurs simultaneously with the formation of dense felts of fibrous glia.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Are the Histological Lesions of Dementia Paralytica Specific? (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) Wertham, F.

Much stress used to be laid upon the changes in the nervous parenchyma. Increasing knowledge has shown that the diagnostic import of these changes becomes increasingly doubtful. Three types of lesion have been regarded as cardinal signs: (1) Infiltration of small blood-vessels with plasma-cells; (2) Proliferation of Hortega-cells; (3) Deposits of iron-pigment in adventitial cells in the intra-adventitial spaces of blood-vessels, and in Hortega-cells. The author has found a spontaneous disease of the brain in chickens; and in this the histological picture has the closest resemblance to that of dementia paralytica. He concludes that the histological changes in dementia paralytica are a general reaction of the brain, not caused only by the *Spirochæta pallida* (for examinations of the chicken's brain for that organism were entirely negative). The question expressed in the title must therefore be answered in the negative.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Effect of Ephedrine on Blood-sugar Mobilization in Chronic Encephalitis. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxvii, April, 1933.) Finkelman, I.

Ephedrine hydrochloride was used as a sympathetico-mimetic drug to observe its effect on blood-sugar mobilization in chronic encephalitis. Seven out of 14