

*Fluctuation of an Ambiguous Figure in Dementia Præcox and in Manic-depressive Patients.* (*Journ. of Abnorm. and Soc. Psychol.*, vol. xxvii, Jan.-March, 1933.) *Hunt, J. McV., and Guilford, J. P.*

The rates of fluctuation of an outline cube were investigated in cases of dementia præcox and manic-depressive insanity. The authors found that in dementia præcox the average rate of fluctuation was four times greater than in manic-depressive insanity. The paranoid types of dementia præcox showed a lower average rate than the rest of the præcox patients, a very wide range of rates and a great daily variation. The præcox group was almost identical with a normal group in average rate and in dispersion of fluctuations, showing that the manic-depressives are the cases which deviate from the normal. Some factor or factors in this group inhibit the fluctuations. Some subjects saw no fluctuations at all in spite of coaching.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Late Periodical Psychoses.* (*General Practice, April-June, 1933.*) *Porot, A.*

The occurrence of melancholia at the pre-senile and involuntional periods is discussed, and the question of classification raised. In agreement with Anglade, the author prefers to separate the involuntional group from Kraepelin's manic-depressive group, finding an organic substratum in most of his cases. The late or delayed psychoses are thus divided into two groups—involuntional and organic. The latter group is subdivided into four sub-groups—encephalitic, circulatory, traumatic and of unknown origin. Examples of each type are given. Involuntional melancholia is stated to occur between 45 to 60, and to be more frequent in women. The basic element is anxiety, and herein the condition is said to differ from the melancholic phase of the circular psychosis.

F. H. HEALEY.

*Schizophrenia in Children.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, May, 1933.) *Potter, H. W.*

A typical schizophrenic reaction may appear long before pubescence. What little delusional formation there may be is exceedingly simple. The outstanding symptoms are found in the field of behaviour and in a consistent lack of emotional *rappori*. None of the cases reported have shown any marked improvement during the period of hospitalization. The schizophrenic child often appears mentally deficient because the libido is invested within the patient himself, thus interfering with the objectification of the intellectual processes.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Encephalographic Studies in Schizophrenia.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) *Moore, M. T., Nathan, D., Elliott, A. R., and Laubach, C.*

In a series of 60 selected cases, encephalography has proved to be a safe clinical procedure. In the majority of cases cerebro-spinal fluid pressure was high, indicating the presence of a chronic increased intracranial pressure. The study of the films indicated a tendency to selective atrophy involving the parietal lobes and the island of Reil; the amount of mental deterioration is reflected in the degree of this atrophy. Evidence of increased size of the ventricles was shown in 25 cases. None of the films showed a normal cerebral pattern.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*A Case of Communicated Insanity [Un caso de locura comunicada].* (*La Semana Med.*, vol. xl, May 25, 1933.) *Soler, J.*

The patients in this case are sisters, æt. respectively 38 and 36 years. Owing to the death of their mother the eldest sister became responsible for the management of the household, and the younger sister was accustomed to obey the elder in all matters and to adopt her attitude towards her environment. The younger sister is of a lower grade of intelligence than the elder, and appears to be definitely feeble-minded. The elder sister developed delusions of persecution on the part of the neighbours, and communicated these delusions to the younger sister. They