

—that the pathological reaction is reversible. This process, in accordance with modern terminology, means a functional disorder. That this is so can be confirmed by the following fact: The catatonic form of schizophrenia, that is, that form of the disease that is characterized particularly by hypnotic manifestations, shows a fairly high percentage of recoveries, which does not hold true in other forms of the disease.

"In conclusion, permit me to make a therapeutic suggestion, even though it may sound sentimental. No matter how magnificent has been the progress in the treatment of the mentally ill, there is something lacking. The mixing together of patients with various degrees of insight and behaviour, and the lack of segregation of quiet from extremely noisy and excited ones who undoubtedly annoy the quiet patients and sometimes abuse them, can be looked on as an additional load on the already weakened cortical cells. The realization of the loss of freedom, which, of course, may be necessary, also 'adds insult to injury'. It seems to me that mentally sick patients should be treated, as are all other persons who suffer from physical disease, in such a manner that the treatment does not rob the patients of dignity and self-respect."

Dr. Franz Alexander, in the discussion that followed, pointed out that one of Pavlov's pupils, Schinson, had published two books on the subject. Dr. Kasanin pointed out that Pavlov gives excellent psychobiological explanations of some of the most cardinal symptoms of schizophrenia.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*So-called Extrapiramidal Reflexes in Various Diseases of the Central Nervous System, particularly in Catatonic Dementia Præcox* [*Sui cosiddetti riflessi extrapiramidali in varie malattie del sistema nervosa centrale, nella demenza precoce catatonica in ispecie*]. (*Riv. Sper. di Freniat.*, vol. lv, September, 1931.) Severino, A.

The author considers the reflexes of Puussepe and of Schrijwer-Bernhard and the pressure reflex of Södenberg to be extrapyramidal, and the phenomena of Boveri and Piotrowski not to be so. He examined thirty non-catatonic cases, thirty-four neurological cases of various types, and twenty-four cases of functional disorders.

The reflexes were usually more frequent in the organic than in the functional disorders.

The reflexes of Puussepe, Schrijwer-Bernhard and Södenberg were infrequent in the hebephrenic and paranoid types of dementia præcox, but frequent in the catatonic types.

The author considers that his findings support the organic origin of dementia præcox, particularly the catatonic type.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Fragments of a Schizophrenic's "Virgin Mary" Delusions.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, September, 1932.) Thomas, J. M.

The report of a patient who has for six years claimed to be the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God. The case is unusual, in that the patient co-operated in a prolonged psychological analysis. Certain accepted religious experiences have been utilized to render tolerable certain instinctive urges. Interesting relations are traced with the autobiography of St. Thérèse of Lisieux ("The Little Flower").

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.