

*Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis with Mental Symptoms.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxvii, April, 1932.) Wechsler, J. S., and Davison, C.

In a large majority of cases of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis there are no definite mental symptoms. Most cases reported are probably associated with a schizophrenic or manic-depressive condition. In cases occurring in patients with cerebral arterio-sclerosis, the mental symptoms are more likely to be due to the latter. In the three cases described, however, the authors definitely attribute the psychotic symptoms to the degenerative process underlying the motor syndrome.

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*Early Diagnosis of Progressive General Paralysis.* [*Diagnóstico precoz de la Parálisis General Progressiva*]. (*Actualidad Medica Mundial*, August, 1932.) Salamon, W.

Only by examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid is it possible to diagnose early progressive paralysis with certainty. This method should be employed in all psychical reactions the diagnosis of which is not perfectly clear.

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*Lissauer's Dementia Paralytica.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxvii, May, 1932.) Merritt, H. H., and Springlova, M.

The authors describe eight cases of Lissauer's dementia paralytica. They found pronounced atrophy of certain convolutions. The temporal lobe was usually the centre of the atrophy; the inferior parietal lobe was involved in all cases. Microscopically the atrophic convolutions showed *status spongiosus*, usually most obvious at the apex of the convolution. In all these cases a peculiar type of cell reaction was found in the small ganglion cells of the fifth and sixth cortical layers of the convolutions showing *status spongiosus*. These cells were swollen and rounded, and the nucleus displaced to the periphery of the cell. With Bielschowsky's stain, the body of each cell was homogeneously impregnated and appeared to be filled with fine, dust-like particles. This type of cell reaction has been described as "Zellblähungen" in Pick's disease and was considered peculiar to that disease. In these cases of Lissauer's paralysis the degree of tissue destruction was much greater than in the usual case of Pick's disease.

In most cases the degree of inflammatory reaction in the meninges and round the cortical blood-vessels was less than in the average case of dementia paralytica. In all these cases there was marked loss of myelin in the white matter localized in the convolutions in which *status spongiosus* existed.

The lesions in the brain in Lissauer's paralysis the authors think are due to the effect of disturbance of the circulation in a brain already more or less injured by the dementia paralytica process. The area involved is that supplied by the third, fourth and fifth branches of the Sylvian artery.

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