

Occasional Note.

ROYAL MEDICO-PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION RESEARCH BUREAU.

THANKS to the generous assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation, a bureau for the assistance of research workers in psychiatry has been established under the auspices of the Association.

The objects of the Bureau are the following :

1. Any psychiatrist seeking special information on any subject is invited to notify the Secretary of the Bureau. A bibliography of all recent papers on the subject will be sent to him together with abstracts of such communications as may seem of great importance. Should he desire abstracts of particular papers, especially those published in foreign languages, they will be furnished on demand.

2. Any worker who wishes to take up some particular research may obtain information as to what has already been done on the subject, and what methods of procedure are advised for further work.

3. Any worker who desires further elucidation on points of technique will be either advised from the Bureau or put in direct communication with the appropriate members of a panel of experts who have kindly consented to advise on technical questions.

4. Workers desiring the loan of technical manuals for purposes of their work may obtain them on application.

5. A worker desiring demonstration of methods of research or treatment, or to confer personally with expert advisers, is eligible to receive small grants enabling him to do so. These grants from the Committee are intended to cover the expense of visits of a few days to laboratories at home or abroad, and are primarily for the use of medical officers unable to make such visits at their own expense.

6. A short account of recent advances in subjects of particular interest together with a fairly complete bibliography will be issued at intervals and sent to any psychiatrist signifying a desire to receive it.

7. Psychiatrists who would like to be put in communication with other workers abroad can receive help from the Bureau.

8. Although it is very much hoped that all British psychiatrists will be members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the services of the

bureau and the eligibility for grants are open to any psychiatrist working in the British Empire.

Subjoined is a list of subjects on which information has recently been supplied by the Research Bureau. Copies of the information given can be sent to anyone who may happen to be interested in any of these questions.

- (1) Insulin and convulsion treatments of schizophrenia; details as to where these treatments are being carried out and with what results.
- (2) Changes in the cortex and brain stem associated with coal-gas poisoning and anoxæmia.
- (3) Juvenile paralysis.
- (4) The phenomenon of phantom limbs.
- (5) Psychoses in identical twins.
- (6) The effects of sodium amytal in schizophrenia.
- (7) The measurement of resistance to passive movement and of muscle tone in the human subject.
- (8) Somnifaine narcosis, together with the chemistry, pharmacology and toxicology of barbiturates in general and somnifaine in particular.
- (9) Prognosis in melancholia.
- (10) Bulgarian therapy of parkinsonianism.
- (11) Use of thorostrast and its possible harmful effects.
- (12) Blood sedimentation rate in mental disorder.
- (13) Psychoses in mental defectives.
- (14) Mental fatigue and its relation to physical fatigue; and scientific records of any cases of complete insomnia and records of cases who have lived with a minimum period of sleep, and what that minimum was.
- (15) Physical state in melancholia.
- (16) The relation between physique and mental type.
- (17) References in literature to the presence of hard calcareous plaques in the spinal cord associated with syringomyelia.
- (18) Treatment of climacteric disorders with hormone substances.
- (19) The measurement of dementia, with special reference to the (1) Babcock deterioration test, (2) measurement of intelligence in old age, (3) Koh's block test, (4) the passalong test, (5) Porteous' maze test.
- (20) Recent account and bibliography of group mental testing, with special reference to the Columbian group test.
- (21) Abstracts from recent literature on puberty and adolescence.
- (22) The use of cobra venom in epilepsy.
- (23) Information as to what previous work had been done on the results of post-mortem findings in insanity, and what was the best method of procedure in undertaking a research of this nature.
- (24) Children's drawings.

- (25) Method of estimating vitamin B₁ in urine by chemical methods, with particular reference to the thiochrome reaction.
- (26) Pellagra.
- (27) Mental disease associated with childbirth.
- (28) Histamine in mental disease.
- (29) Syringomyelia.
- (30) "Associated movements."
- (31) The absence of the corpus callosum and its effects.
- (32) Alcoholism.
- (33) Heredity of catatonic schizophrenia.
- (34) The role of the endocrine glands in dementia præcox.
- (35) Alzheimer's disease.
- (36) Hæmatoporphyrin treatment of melancholia.
- (37) The Berger rhythm.
- (38) The relation between tuberculosis and schizophrenia.
- (39) Tropical neurasthenia.
- (40) Statistics as to the relative merits of malaria and sulphur treatment of G.P.I.
- (41) Changes in the blood in epilepsy.
- (42) Cerebellar agenesis.
- (43) The ætiology of schizophrenia.
- (44) Cerebral swelling.
- (45) Recent work on the pyrexial treatment of tabes.
- (46) Sugar metabolism in mental disorder.
- (47) Blood-pressure in psychoses.
- (48) The efficacy of anahæmin in pernicious anæmia as opposed to liver extract.

In addition to information on subjects of special interest, there have been several requests for abstracts of particular papers appearing in foreign journals, or for advice as to where specific research work may be seen in operation, and requests to be put in touch with research workers both in this country and abroad. Grants have been made to medical officers to enable them to visit hospitals abroad where they may study special methods of research. So far only five such grants have been awarded, and further applications are invited.
