

neither age nor duration of the epilepsy had any influence. The percentage of low metabolic rates is greater in patients having frequent attacks.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

6. Mental Deficiency.

Tuberose Sclerosis and Allied Conditions. (*Brain*, vol. lv, September, 1932.)
Critchley, M., and Earl, C. J. C.

The authors studied 29 cases of tuberose sclerosis. They consider that the evidence is increasing that the condition is a developmental anomaly commencing early in foetal life. The giant-cells met with are most likely a primitive type of cell not far removed from an undifferentiated neuroblast. Those cells may develop characteristics which are either glial or neuronie, hence two views as to the ætiology of the condition emerge, one regarding it as a hyperplastic disorder of the neuroglia, the other as a metaplasia affecting mainly the ectodermal tissues, but also to some extent the mesodermal and endodermal derivatives. The authors consider that the similarities between tuberose sclerosis and von Recklinghausen's disease have been rather over-emphasized.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Almost Feeble-Minded. (*Psychol. Clinic*, vol. xxi, June-August, 1932.)
Rosenstein, J. L.

Intelligence test results are of minor importance, even if they are exact. They do not tell us how the individual has obtained his score. We should be more interested in items which cannot be measured, but which must be inferred. The proper method is psychological rather than psychometric. Three cases are described in which a superficial examination would have given a diagnosis of feeble-mindedness, but in which subsequent training proved that such diagnosis was incorrect.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Rorschach Test as Applied to a Feeble-minded Group. (*Arch. of Psychol.*, No. 136, 1932.) Beck, S. J.

The mode of attack by the feeble-minded on a problem is shown by the Rorschach test to display an absence of whole responses. The feeble-minded are more likely to react to details of the material presented than to combine the details into a meaningful whole. They are more interested in the unessential. The percentage of accurately seen forms shows an increase with advancing age. The percentage of animal responses shows the group to be more stereotyped in thought than the normal group is. Self-criticism appears about the eighth year. The percentage of original response shows that the feeble-minded are capable of originality. The movement score shows them to be almost incapable of creative fantasy. The correlation between the whole score and the mental age is not high enough to allow prediction of mental level from the whole response score. The advantages of the Rorschach test are that it is free from influence of schooling, the test material is entirely objective and simple in presentation, and the same material is

applicable for all levels of intelligence. It is so unlike a "test" that it reduces the emotional factor to a minimum.

The author found the oligophrenic response described by Rorschach in only 20 of his 69 cases.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

7. Treatment.

Prolonged Narcosis as Therapy in the Psychoses. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, July, 1932.) Palmer, H. D., and Paine, A. L.

Sodium amytal narcosis was used, intravenously and orally. The aim is to keep the patient in a state of profound sleep for a continuous period of 7 to 10 days, with the exception of two daily periods of half an hour for the purpose of attending to nutrition and evacuation. The drug has been found to be non-toxic, and to offer a wide margin of safety. No patient was made worse by the treatment, and 80.8% can be regarded as improved or recovered. The greatest success may be anticipated in the manic-depressive group. The mechanism of improvement or recovery seems to be psychological rather than biochemical. Small doses of sodium amytal often assist uncommunicative patients to reveal their conflicts; and in many cases the drug facilitates the release of dreams, which furnish an abundance of material on which to base conclusions as to the dynamics of the illness.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

8. Criminology.

A Mental Hygiene Study of Juvenile Delinquency. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, July, 1932.) Levy, J.

This report represents the results obtained during two years' work in a small child-guidance clinic. The non-delinquent children sent to the clinic were used as a control group. The non-delinquent group was equally divided as regards sex; three-fourths of the delinquents were boys. The average age of the delinquents was 12 years, that of the non-delinquents was 14-15. This finding merely shows that criminal tendencies are taken notice of sooner than are other forms of deviation. The relatives of delinquents are likely to be handicapped by social stigmata, while those of non-delinquents show a neurotic taint. The incidence of delinquency increases as one goes down the economic scale. As regards the influence of intelligence, it would appear that the more intelligent child does not engage in delinquency until other methods of obtaining its goal have failed. Misdemeanours are secondary responses in the case of highly intelligent children, undesirable personality reactions having ante-dated delinquency. Questions of discipline and other family reactions are of the utmost importance. The delinquent child solves its sex problems by reacting to a lesser evil, e.g., stealing; the non-delinquent attempts to work through such difficulties by emotional reactions. Sexual perversion