

Surgical Intervention in Syringomyelia and Spinal Cord Tumours.
[*À propos des interventions chirurgicales pour tumeurs intramédullaires et pour syringomyélie*]. (*L'Encéph.*, December, 1927.) Christopher, L.

The author commences by a description from MM. Sicard, Haginan and Mayer of treatment of a case of syringomyelia by (1) laminectomy, (2) injection of lipiodol into the cystic cavity for radiological localization, and (3) drainage of the cyst. He follows with a case of his own which presented typical signs and symptoms of syringomyelia, which he treated by laminectomy and drainage of the cyst. Although this was at first apparently successful as far as alleviation of symptoms was concerned, the patient eventually died, and autopsy revealed a glioma of the cord with central cystic degeneration.

M. Christopher emphasizes the difficulty of differential diagnosis in such a case, and also the value of operative interference as far as the relief of symptoms such as pain is concerned.

R. S. GIBSON.

The Diagnosis of Infantile Paralysis [*Diagnostic de la Paralysie Infantile*]. (*Gaz. des Hôp.*, No. 104, December 28, 1927.) Babonneix, M. L.

This paper contains a warning as to the difficulties of and necessity for accurate diagnosis of acute anterior poliomyelitis. In the acute stage it may be confused with meningitis of various types, osteo-arthritic diseases, meningeal hæmorrhage, encephalitis, typhoid fever, etc., and in the later stages with myopathies, encephalopathies, polyneuritis, etc. The salient points for the differential diagnosis are indicated in each case.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

Symptomatology of Myasthenia Gravis [*Zur Symptomatologie der Myasthenia Pseudoparalytica*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, No. 12, March 24, 1928.) Holterdorf, A.

An account of a case with typical symptoms of myasthenia, but in whom the muscles failed to give the so-called "myasthenic reaction." The reaction is not absolutely specific, since it may be absent in myasthenia, and sometimes present in other conditions, such as polyneuritis and cerebellar tumours. The patient described also showed a persistent enlarged thymus, and X-ray treatment of this organ was followed by considerable improvement in the myasthenic condition.

A. WALK.

2. Psychology and Psycho-Pathology.

An Elementary Symbolism for Logic. (*Mind*, January, 1928.) Rimel, L. J.

In this article Mr. Rimel advances a symbolism for the solution of the problems of formal logic. He aims at providing a system which will meet all the essential facts of the case without requiring

the rigorous algebraic treatment of Whitehead and Rimel. All the important aspects of formal logic are touched upon, from the hypothetical proposition and the problem of immediate inference to the complications of the syllogism. The whole is illustrated by examples of problems taken from such diverse sources as Whitehead and Rimel, Lewis Carrol, and Lewis, to all of which the symbolic formulæ are successfully applied.

R. S. GIBSON.

On Substitution as a Cause of Errors in Thinking. (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, January, 1928.) Wilcocks, R. W.

The problem treated is that of errors occurring in task-directed processes of thought. Experimentally obtained introspective data are advanced to prove that the validity of the law of substitution must be assumed in order to explain errors of thinking arising in a certain type of task-directed cognitive process, in which solutions occur which do not agree with the anticipatory conditions.

WM. McWILLIAM.

An Interference Theory of Colour Vision. (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, January, 1928.) Forbes, W. T. M.

The author deals with an interference theory of colour vision which assumes that only one light-sensitive substance is concerned with photopic vision, a visual violet substance similar to the familiar visual purple of scotopic vision.

Three kinds of cones, however, are postulated: (1) White, with no special structures, in which the visual pigment is presumably diffuse; (2) yellow, with a reflecting surface at its further end and an insulating film at a distance back from it; and (3) red, similar to the yellow in structure.

The subject of the paper is skilfully elaborated with five diagrams and references in foot-notes.

WM. McWILLIAM.

Attention and Clearness in the Perception of Figure and Ground. (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, January, 1928.) Wever, E. G.

The author deals with his subject under the following headings:

- (1) Perception and attention.
- (2) Figure-ground experience and clearness.
- (3) The nature of clearness—the sensory-cognitive distinction.
- (4) The theory of the two levels.

Many references are given and the article is concluded by a brief summary.

WM. McWILLIAM.

Experimental Studies on Children and Persons of Unsound Mind by the Method of Conditioned Reflexes [*Études expérimentales sur les enfants et les aliénés selon la méthode des réflexes conditionnels*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, July, 1927.) Ivanoff-Smolensky, A. G.

The author following closely the work and methods of Pavloff seeks to elucidate the physiology of human conduct. He concludes that the cerebral hemispheres constitute a reflexo-creative organ,