

during life to be exophthalmic. For the last year of her life, she had suffered from convulsions of the face and neck on the right side. She came under observation for, and died of heart disease (mitral incompetence).

The case was radiographed, and it was demonstrated that the enlargement of the hands and feet was due to changes in the soft tissues, while the enlargement of the jaw was due to hypertrophy of bone.

*Post mortem* the pituitary body was found enlarged to the size of a chestnut and displaced to the left side, so as to block the left cavernous sinus. The bony roof of the orbit was thinned to transparency.

The goitre was cystic, and no trace of the thymus was found.

W. H. B. STODDART.

*Histological Examination of a Spinal Cord affected by Syringomyelia and Multiple Heterotopia* [*Ricerca istologica d' un midollo spinale affetto da siringomielia ed eterotopie multiple*]. (*Ann. di Nervol.*, fasc. i, ii, 1899.) Lombardi, G.

The patient, aged sixty, was admitted to the asylum on February 4th, 1896, suffering from general paralysis. There were fibrillary tremors of the tongue and face muscles, and oscillatory movements of the fingers. The pupils were myotic, unequal, and fixed. The plantar and patellar reflexes were normal, the cremasteric and abdominal increased. The sensory phenomena could not be tested owing to the mental condition. The hands and feet showed trophic changes. The nails were atrophied; the skin greyish white; the phalanges were wasted. There was retroflexion of the distal phalanges and flexion of the second upon the first. The patient died on February 11th. The post-mortem examination showed hypostatic pneumonia and heart failure. There was hyperostosis of the cranial bones; atrophy of the brain and increase of the subarachnoid and intra-ventricular fluid. The spinal cord showed marked thickening of the pia mater throughout its whole length and thickening of the vessels from arterio-sclerosis. There was occlusion of the central canal and diffuse sclerosis of the posterior columns. In both cervical and lumbar regions there were syringomyelic cavities of new formation. These contained vessels with markedly dilated perivascular spaces, and also an amorphous substance which was to a certain extent disintegrated nervous matter. These were situated in the grey matter surrounding the central canal, and projected, especially forward and to the right.

There was also, in this case, displacement of the posterior cornua and of the anterior commissure, and asymmetry of the anterior columns. These anomalies of conformation support the embryonic origin of the syringomyelia.

J. R. GILMOUR.

## 2. Physiological Psychology.

*The Psychology of Alcohol* (*Amer. Journ. Psych.*, vol. xi, No. 3, April, 1900.) Partridge, G. E.

This is a study not merely of the effects of alcohol, whether as manifested in inebriety or when taken for experimental purposes, but of the

intoxication impulse generally. The author believes there is a danger of regarding natural phenomena too readily as abnormal. He considers that the methods used by many who have been inspired by Lombroso illustrate this, and remarks that the conclusion of Nordau that all society is pathological is the logical result of an indiscriminate search for abnormalities. Thus we must beware of too hastily regarding the intoxication impulse as abnormal. It has played a part of the first importance both among uncivilised and civilised peoples. "Indeed, it is hard to imagine what the religious or social consciousness of primitive man would have been without them [intoxicants]." The first part of the paper is devoted to an account of the part played by this impulse in the religious and social life of early civilisations. This is followed by an analysis of the state of intoxication, accounts of experiments with intoxicating doses of alcohol, and observations on a series of inebriates. The author's experiments show that in intoxication, unless well advanced, the rapidity of simple mental processes is not decreased. The rapidity of tapping was most affected. Ability to control a reflex wink was greatly increased. There is increased activity of the associations, emotions, and sensations which make up the self. The increase of self-confidence and the diminution of suspicion are important points in their social bearing. "The intimate relation of intoxication to the social impulse undoubtedly accounts—in part at least—for the widespread and persistent use of intoxicants. Doubtless it made possible wider social relations than could otherwise have been maintained."

Partridge does not find that the craving for drink is common among drunkards except when there is a decided neurotic taint. In fifty-eight out of the sixty-five cases he studied, there was no evidence of any conscious craving after the first few days. There was a much more marked craving for tobacco. Partridge is decidedly opposed to Archdall Reid's views concerning the existence of any specific craving for alcohol eliminated by selection, and regards these views as built up on a false analogy with zymotic diseases.

After summarising the previous work of Kraepelin and others, Partridge finally gives the results of his own experiments on two subjects as regards the effect of alcohol in small doses on ability to do muscular and mental work. In one subject muscular work (as measured by the ergograph) was decidedly decreased; in the other subject there was no alteration in the work-curve—*i. e.* there was an increase in the first half-hour, and then a progressive decrease. In the psycho-physical tests there was little effect. In addition there was a slight quickening, lasting nearly to end of second hour; in reading and writing a period of quickening followed by retardation. The depressing effect of the alcohol could never be traced on the following day. These results do not altogether confirm Kraepelin's.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

*Natural Auto-suggestion* [*L'Auto-suggestion naturelle*]. (*Rev. de l'Hyp.*, March, 1900.) Lagrave, Costé de.

The law formulated as the foundation of auto-suggestion is—"The perceived impression is the cause of mental representation subsequently." A useful mental representation is accepted, and auto-suggestion develops,