

albumen and lymphocytosis, the reaction was four times positive, once doubtful, and once negative. In all the fourteen cases of general paralysis, there was a record of syphilis in only four instances, showing how little such admissions are to be relied on. Out of four patients with lues cerebri three gave a doubtful and one a weak positive reaction.

The spinal fluid of an old patient with tabes gave a positive reaction, also the serum with two cases of congenital syphilis implicating the nerve centres.

Foerster remarks, in conclusion, that some newer investigators (Marie and Levaditi, Weygandt, Weil) have reported that arrest of the hæmolysis may also be brought about by an extract from normal organs in larger doses and from extract from tumours. These observations, Foerster observes, while they must modify the theoretical presumptions based upon the original experiments, do not in any way lessen the practical value of the methods. However this may be, no one is likely to disagree with the last sentence, that a speedy diminution of the technical difficulties which precludes these experiments being performed outside of a special laboratory is a thing to be hoped for. Dr. Harry Campbell, writing in the *British Medical Journal* for February 27th, has already described a simpler method which he learned from Dr. Perges at Vienna.

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*The Serum Diagnosis of Diseases of Syphilitic Origin in the Nerve Centres* [Die Serodiagnose der Syphilitischen Erkrankung des Zentralnervensystems]. (*Allg. Zeits. f. Psychiat.*, Bd. 65, H. 3.) Rosenfeld.

In the course of his communication to the Psychiatric Association of the South-West German Alienists held at Heidelberg in November, 1907, Dr. Rosenberg stated that Plaut had succeeded in obtaining the reaction of the anti-stuffs in the cerebro-spinal fluid of paralytics in well-nigh 100 per cent. of the cases examined. In lues cerebri, and in lues without cerebral affection, the number of cases that presented a positive reaction was small. Thus the presence of anti-stuffs in the spinal fluid would appear to be pathognomonic of general paralysis.

The drawback to this test is the extreme difficulty of the preparations. Fernet and Schereschewsky, working at the Bacteriological Institution at Strasburg, have devised a simpler and easier method described in the *Münch. med. Wochenschrift.*, Nr. 30. Their preparation, called "Luesprazipitine" and "Luespraziptinogine," was found to give a reaction when the serum of a syphilitic in whose organism the *Spirochæta pallida* was found had been mixed with the serum of several paralytics and tabetics. In the majority of cases, there was a specific precipitate, while neither the serum of a syphilitic subject nor that of a paralytic or tabetic gave a like reaction with normal serum. But in several cases of undoubted paralysis and in one in which there was in addition involvement of the bones in the disease the precipitate failed to appear. In the following discussion Alzheimer stated that experiments in the Munich Klinik had shown that this method was often untrustworthy, whereas the complement method used by Wassermann gave constant results.

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