

*A Statistical Review of Convulsive Disorders in the United States.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1931.) Pollock, H. M.

The rate of prevalence of epilepsy is moderately estimated as 62 per 100,000. The number of epileptics in institutions is 23.2 per 100,000 of population; and of these, 54% are males and 46% females (but there are marked local variations in these figures for the sexes). Epilepsy is not markedly more prevalent in urban than in rural districts. There has been a recent increase in institutional cases, but not in the total number of cases.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Some Observations on Experimentally Produced Convulsions.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1931.) Pike, F. H., Elsberg, C. A., McCulloch, W. S., and Chappell, M. N.

This paper describes the type of convulsions elicitable after lesions of the rubro-spinal system, and is a continuation of the paper published by the same authors in 1929.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Central Mechanism of Generalized Epileptic Fits.* (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1931.) Spiegel, E.

There exist several paths for the conduction of the cortical impulse from one side to the motor area of the opposite side. Under normal conditions, generalized epileptic fits may develop along two groups of fibres—either those which cross the midline in the rhombencephalon, or those which cross in the pons. Pathological symptoms are produced only by changes of pre-existent mechanisms.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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## 2. Psychology and Psycho-Pathology.

*Internationale Zeitschrift für Individual-Psychologie, September-October, 1930.*

This number contains the following articles:

*Talks with Parents and Children [Gespräche mit Eltern und Kindern].* Holub, M.

The author claims that a single talk with a child may be enough to bring out the faulty "style of life" and to recognize that the child suffers from an asocial attitude. The symptom is but an expression of this attitude, and it is a mistake to occupy oneself with the symptom instead of with the "style of life." The child ought to be given courage without talking about it. Consultations in public are considered an advantage, and it is often advisable to point out the imperfection of adults. A number of "talks" are reported *in extenso*.

*Talks with Children [Gespräche mit Kindern]. Katz, D.*

Prof. Katz holds that talks between parents and young children have the advantage over talks between the children themselves in that they assume more easily the form of a dialogue. The reason that the dialogue and the process of socialization of child-language have been so completely neglected in child psychology he attributes to the anatomizing tendency of early psychology, and to its having been essentially individualistic. Prof. Katz and his wife have for a number of years written down short dialogues they had with their two sons, now 8 and 6 years of age respectively. A number of these dialogues are reproduced here, ably discussed, and useful pedagogic conclusions drawn from them.

*A Case of Enuresis Diurna [Ein Fall von Enuresis Diurna]. Adler, A.*

A verbatim report of the talk between the mother of the patient, a boy *æ*t. 12, and Dr. Adler, and of that between the patient and the doctor.

*Stupidity as an Excuse [Dummheit als Enthebungsmittel]. Löwy, I.*

In a 14-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl the community-feeling had been stifled by the inferiority complex produced by wrong upbringing. In both cases stupidity has been exposed as an excuse, as a fixation of psychic infantilism, as the renunciation of their life-tasks by two despairing children.

*Manners and Ways of the Elder among Brothers and Sisters or among Other Companions [Wesen und Wege der älteren unter Geschwistern oder anderen Vergleichspartnern]. Sumpf, E.*

Five case-histories, three of them human, one feline and one canine, where an inferiority complex had been developed in the elder of two partners after the arrival of the younger.

*The Brother or Sister of the Difficult Child [Das Geschwister des schwererziehbaren Kindes]. Bader, H., and Fritz, V.**Pædiatrics and Individual Psychology [Kinderheilkunde und Individualpsychologie]. Zanker, A.*

This is an examination from the individual-psychological point of view of 150 cases of child-neuroses which came under observation in the course of two years. The material is considered in three ways, namely, according to individual-psychological types, to age-groups and to neurotic stigmata. As to age-groups, there were about 15% of pre-school age, 60% of school age and 25% of pre-puberty and puberty age. In the classification by different neurotic symptoms it was attempted to divide the material into four groups according to the predominance of the endogenous or exogenous, the psychical or somatic factors. Types were continually kept in mind, but the various classifications, such as

Kretschmer's body-build types, Jaensch's character-types, Jung's introvert and extrovert types, etc., were found superficial and unsatisfactory. In the second part of the paper "somatoneuroses" and "psychoneuroses" are considered in conjunction with case-histories, and it is contended that there is seldom a case in which the various factors are not mixed in varying proportions.

*Education to Fellowship by Means of the School* [*Erziehung zur Gemeinschaft durch die Schule*]. Hoppe, J.

Stories of fellowship in school-children.

*The Understanding of the Personality of the School-Child* [*Die Erfassung der Schülerpersönlichkeit*]. Seidler, R.

Examination of children's compositions, and attempts to draw inferences therefrom as to personality. A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*Psyche*, No. 42, October, 1930.

This number contains the following articles :

*Editorial: Aspects Suspect—Basic for the Far East—For India.*

*The Orthological Institute : The Syncropick.*

Announcement of the invention of an apparatus for recording and synchronizing speech.

*Interpretation and Analysis. Wisdom, J.*

This is a paper of philological and philosophical interest, and forms the first portion of the author's forthcoming book, *Bentham on Definition*.

*Shyness. Wright, M. B.*

"The problem of the shy man, as it is presented to himself, is to make objective relationships with his own kind without painful subjective disturbances in his individual life," says the author. The paper is illustrated by extracts from the autobiographies of Compton Leith, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Henri Beyle (Stendhal).

*Modern Anthropology and the Theory of Cultural Compulsives.* Calverton, V. F.

The author points out how closely the growth of the science of anthropology is bound up with the development of the theory of evolution. The anthropologists of the evolutionary school contended that society had passed through certain stages of slow but constant progression, from the lower to the higher, culminating in our present state of civilization. They traced, for instance, the development of marriage from states of sexual promiscuity to the monogamous marriage of western civilization of the present day. Morgan particularly stressed the important part that property had played in this evolution, and his doctrine was seized by radical political economists as proof of Marxian philosophy. In a similar

manner, when in 1891 Westermarck's *History of Human Marriage* appeared it took the academic world by storm. Westermarck contended that monogamy existed already among a number of mammalian animals, as, for instance, whales, seals, hippopotami, anthropoid apes, etc., that monogamy was instinctive and the highest and final form of human sexual relations. The *History of Human Marriage* became the bible of the social sciences until assailed and annihilated some years ago by Robert Briffault's *The Mothers*. Westermarck's doctrine remained ensconced for so long a time because it represented the bourgeois, middle-class ideal. The author's theory, as elucidated by this conflict between Morgan and Westermarck, is that anthropological hypotheses are not conceived or envisaged objectively; they engender social forces which tend to develop what he calls *cultural compulsives*—or a vested interest in a cultural complex. This theory is then further developed.

*Movement and Types in Children.* Burns, C. L. C.

The author endeavours to correlate certain kinds of movement, jerky, excessive, graceful, etc., with certain psychopathological types, and suggests rhythm for the maintenance of mental health.

*Physiological Behaviour-Reactions in the Individual and the Community.* Burrow, T.

The author distinguishes a physiology that one looks at and a physiology that one feels, and discourses upon the latter and its expressions, both "intra-individually and inter-individually."

*Is there a Time-Sense?* Jones, A. O.

The author appears to presume that he possesses a "time-sense." He asserts that he can wake exactly at any hour determined before going to sleep, and that he can tell the time when asked, within one or two minutes.

*The Psychology of Sea-sickness.* Claremont, C. A.

The theory of the author is that sea-sickness is due to contending impressions from different sense-organs. "Our eyes tell us that we are stationary . . . but our sensations of support will have it that we are moving. . . . Some sense or other, it seems, must be misleading us. Our system concludes that we are seriously ill, poisoned probably; hence we vomit—the first precaution of nature's first-aid." Comment is superfluous.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*Hermann Ebbinghaus.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychol.*, October, 1930.)  
Shakow, D.

This is a short appreciative account of Prof. Ebbinghaus's life and work. A bibliography of his writings and another of the biographical sources are appended.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.