malarial infection. Of these cases 19 were chronic and included hebephrenic, katatonic and paranoid types, 4 were intermittent and of some standing, and 4 were acute.

In the chronic cases no satisfactory results were obtained. In the intermittent cases remissions occurred lasting over several months. In the acute cases, which are described in full, very successful results are reported. The ætiology of schizophrenia with special reference to the influence of syphilis—which the authors deny—is discussed in relation to the *rationale* of the treatment, which is, however, still obscure. R. S. GIBSON.

Experiments with Saprovitan [*Versuche mit Saprovitan*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, *No.* 12, *March* 24, 1928.) *Blume, C.*

The author treated a number of cases of general paralysis, cerebral syphilis and schizophrenia by intravenous injections of saprovitan, a preparation containing living bacteria, which produces a rapid rise of temperature with rigors. The method appears to be free from danger. Of 7 paralytics thus treated 1 (an advanced case in poor condition) died, 1 was greatly improved and was discharged, 1 unchanged and 4 considerably improved. The schizophrenics treated were all women suffering from acute psychoses of sudden onset, mostly of the katatonic type. Of 24 cases, 6 were completely cured, 8 were improved and 10 unchanged. Although spontaneous cures are well-known in these conditions, improvement only occurs in about 20% of all cases, whereas the treated cases showed improvement in 58%. The author concludes that saprovitan should be given a further trial with a view to determining more definitely the indications for its use. A. WALK.

On the Use of Hypnotics [*Über Schlafmitteltherapie*]. (*Psych.-Neurol. Wochens.*, *No.* 13, *March* 31, 1928.) *Stroomann, G.*

In spite of the extensive use of psychotherapeutic methods in inducing sleep, hypnotics still play an important part in the treatment of neuroses and psychoses. Our knowledge of the action of hypnotics must, however, be revised in the light of recent advances in physiology and pharmacology. New conceptions on the physiology of sleep have resulted from the study of epidemic encephalitis. Sleep may be defined as inhibition of cortical activities, with release of the sleep-regulating mechanism in the brain-stem, which includes a sleep-centre and a waking-centre. Electrical stimulation of the brain-stem in the cat may produce sleep, although no exact localization of the sleep-exciting centre can be determined. It is possible that chloretone has a specific action on the brain-stem apparatus, whereas paraldehyde, morphine and bromides act on the cortex. On the biochemical side there is, during sleep, a marked diminution of the blood-calcium, which is displaced into the nervous tissues and appears in increased amount in the cerebro-spinal fluid. A useful method, elaborated by Gayer, for comparing the action of hypnotics is described; this consists in noting the effect of the drug