

admit a limitation ; it recognizes the fact that whatever takes place in therapy must be present, in some degree, in the single contact. The distinction between therapeutic case-work and analysis is quantitative, not qualitative. Time is a purely arbitrary category of man's invention, but it represents more vividly than any other category the necessity of accepting limitation as well as the inability to do so, and so symbolizes the whole problem of living.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Ten Years' Experience in the Treatment of Epilepsy with Ketogenic Diet.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxix, April, 1933.) *Helmholz, H. F., and Keith, H. M.*

During ten years' experience at the Mayo Clinic with 369 epileptic children up to the age of 14 years, the authors, after eliminating a number of cases which were unsatisfactory from various points of view, found a residual group of 160. Of these, 36% were well, *i. e.*, had had no fits for at least a year, 21% were improved, and 43% were not improved. It is pointed out that aceto-acetic acid and its sodium salt are able to prevent experimental convulsions in rabbits, and that their action is greater than the other acetone bodies and is more marked than that of extreme dehydration.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Effects of the Same Drug, or other Experimental Procedure, upon Convulsions Elicited in Animals by Different Experimental Methods.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, March, 1933.) *Pike, F. H., Notkin, D. J., Coombs, H. C., and Weingrow, S. M.*

The same drug or experimental procedure may act very differently on convulsions elicited by different experimental methods. None of the procedures tried are at all effective in protecting the animal from the results of cerebral anæmia. There is little doubt that bromides and trional are effective in protecting the animal from the results of electrical excitation of the cortex. When we have a sufficient analysis of the effects of various agents upon experimentally induced convulsions, and a sufficient study of the effects of various measures upon the clinical course of epilepsy, we may get a clearer idea of the actual cause of epilepsy in the human subject.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Changes in the Clinical Signs and Laboratory Findings in Various Types of Psychoses under the Influence of Subcutaneous Administration of Oxygen.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, May, 1933.) *Notkin, J., Greef, J. G. W., Pike, F. H., and Killian, J. A.*

Four groups of patients were selected for oxygen therapy ; 30 female patients with involutional melancholia, 8 cases of mixed manic-depression and 2 cases of inadequacy depression, 10 cases of long-standing catatonia, and 7 patients with convulsive states. Initial findings for all groups showed a normal hæmoglobin content ; oxygen produced no significant change. No striking variations were observed in the erythrocyte counts. The lymphocytes were normal throughout. Some of the cases improved under treatment, but it is not clear that this was due to the oxygen.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Effect of the Administration of Sodium Amytal and Sodium Rhodanate on Mental Patients.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, March, 1933.) *Harris, M. M., and Katz, S. E.*

Sodium amytal, intravenously, produces marked but transient ameliorative effects in some psychotic patients ; the oral administration of the drug is not so effective. Sodium rhodanate was without any noticeable therapeutic effect in the cases studied, and in several cases its oral administration was followed by toxic manifestations.

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