

unconsciousness than the usual one, for he says that patients should be left in this condition for 10–20 and never more than 30 minutes. The second part of the paper is devoted to a study of other reflexes. Associated with Babinski's reflex the author frequently found Oppenheim's and Gordon's phenomenon; Rossolimo's and Mendel-Bechterew's reflexes, however, were never present. The author could not confirm Sakel's finding that pyramidal symptoms are more frequent on the right side. The grasp reflex was frequent, especially during the stage of marked motor excitement  $2\frac{1}{2}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours after the injection. Half of the cases showed an eccentricity of the pupils which usually was of short duration; but sometimes of such a high degree that the whole of the pupil moved into the upper nasal quadrant of the iris.

S. L. LAST.

*Results of Insulin Shock Treatment in Schizophrenia* [Ergebnisse der Insulinshockbehandlung bei Schizophrenie]. (Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Neur. u. Psychiat., vol. clix, p. 704, 1937.) Marzynski, M., and St. Witek.

The reports from the University Hospital, Vilna, have not been as favourable as from most other hospitals where large numbers have been treated according to Sakel's method. Satisfactory results were only obtained in cases of less than 6 months' duration. Of 43 patients, 24 (55.8%) showed complete or social remissions. Of 27 cases of 7–12 months' duration only 4 (14.8%) had satisfactory remissions, and these were obtained in 3 (5.2%) cases of more than a year's standing. The latest modifications of technique suggested by Sakel did not make any difference to the more chronic type, but seemed to increase the number of good results in recent cases.

S. L. LAST.

*Reports on Subjective Experiences in Hypoglycæmic States* [Selbstbeobachtungen im hypoglykämischen Zustand]. (Zeitschr. f. d. ges. Neur. u. Psychiat., vol. clix, p. 417, 1937.) Wiedeking, I.

This is a very interesting study carried out on three medical students who had insulin given them in the same way as patients treated according to Sakel's technique. They described marked hunger, which varied during the experiments; however, they did not experience thirst. Headache was not rare. Heaviness of the limbs and weakness was regarded as very characteristic. They were tired and wanted to be left alone. They had a feeling that they could not concentrate or even think. The mood was one of apathy; when somatic symptoms developed there was an irritability with desire for quietness. On waking, euphoria and a feeling of having been saved from a danger were very marked. Consciousness also varied in phases, the students becoming clearer for short periods and then becoming increasingly clouded. A feeling of blankness developed out of a difficulty in thinking. Disorders of sensation were frequent. Entoptic phenomena and pseudo-hallucinations of sight occurred often. When they were very drowsy these subjects still felt pain, but often they could not localize it or did not seem to react to it. The author included some experimental tests like Bourdon's attention and the word-association test. These showed, with small doses of insulin, a parallelism between mental impairment and the falling blood sugar. With high doses, however, there was a continuous drop in efficiency.

S. L. LAST.

*Clinical Remarks on the Precomatose Period in the Course of Treatment of Schizophrenia by Insulin* [Remarques cliniques sur la période précomateuse au cours du traitement des états schizophréniques par l'insulinothérapie]. (Ann. Méd. Psych., vol. xcvi, p. 66, Jan., 1938.) Porcher, Y., and Leconte, M.

Report on two schizophrenics, sisters, treated by hypoglycæmic shock therapy. In both, remissions occurred when the dose of insulin reached the neighbourhood of a hundred units; this was short of the coma dose. On their experience the writers question the necessity of invariably proceeding to the coma level.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.