

Focal Infection and Mental Disease. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, October, 1923.) *Kopeloff, v., and Kirby, G. H.*

The authors state that this investigation was stimulated by the claims of Cotton, and therefore it has been necessary painstakingly to scrutinize his work. One hundred and twenty cases were taken, 58 forming the series which were operated on and focal infection removed, and 62 cases were taken as controls.

Generally speaking the cases were balanced as to types of mental disorder, duration and probable prognosis, and also as to types of infection, such as that of the teeth, the tonsils or the cervix. The duration of the cases both before and after admission varied from a few weeks to a number of years. Full details of all these points are given in a number of tables. The types chosen consisted of 33 and 32 cases of dementia præcox in the selected cases and the controls respectively, 20 and 25 cases of manic-depressive psychosis and 5 each miscellaneous.

Twenty-two of the 58 operated cases improved or recovered, 15 of these being in the manic-depressive group, 8 of which were recoveries.

Of these 22 cases 6 improved before treatment commenced, 4 cases improved within a month of operation, 9 cases improved in one to two months and 3 cases later.

The figures in the controls very closely resembled those of the operated cases.

The authors give a detailed criticism of the bacteriological technique employed by Cotton and of the deductions drawn therefrom, and much of this appears to be well justified.

The conclusions drawn are that in the psychoses chosen the removal of focal infection did not result in a higher percentage of improvements or recoveries than in the cases in which this was not done. Again, all recoveries obtained in the operated cases have been forecasted, and no case recovered in which a poor prognosis had been given. In one case, however, an unexpected improvement occurred. A critical study of the methods used by Cotton for establishing focal infection proved them unsatisfactory for teeth, stomach, lower intestine and cervix.

Finally, while it is desirable to remove proved focal infection where found, it has not been shown that focal infection is the ætiological factor in the functional psychoses.

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3. Clinical Psychiatry.

Some Röntgenologic Observations of Gastro-Intestinal Conditions Associated with Mental Disorders. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychiat.*, April, 1924.) *Henry, G. W.*

Details of the findings and technique employed in barium meal examinations of 100 unselected cases from the Bloomingdale Mental Hospital are summarized. Only 25 per cent. had gastrointestinal symptoms, quite slight except in one or two. X-ray