

diminished under general fatigue. At first it is increased by work and local fatigue of the muscle, but it soon falls if these are continued. Elongation of the muscle lessens the tone. Faradisation, cold baths, strychnine and caffeine all made it more marked. Lastly it bore no direct relation to the dynamical force. In pathological states it is augmented in spasmodic tabes, insular sclerosis and contractures, whilst the reverse is noted in the myopathies, chorea, and flabby hemiplegia.

SIDNEY CLARKE.

Researches on the Reducing Power of the Urine in Maniac-melancholic Insanity [*Ricerche sul Potere Riducente delle Urine nella Frenosi Maniaco-depressiva*]. (*Il Manicomio, Anno xxiv, No. 2, 1908.*) Pini.

In continuation of other researches which he has made regarding the modifications of metabolism in mental disease, Dr. Pini records in this paper the results of an investigation into the reducing power of the urine in six cases of maniac-melancholic insanity (Kraepelin) approximating to the type of *folie circulaire*. Control experiments were made on ten normal individuals. The method used for estimating the reducing power was that introduced by Helier (*Comptes-rendus de l'Académie des Sciences, 1899*), and modified by Lucatello, in which permanganate of potash is the oxygenating agent. The results are given in a series of tables showing for several periods of six days the reducing power (measured in cubic centimetres of the deci-normal solution) of the total volume of urine passed in the twenty-four hours, absolutely and relatively to the body-weight, and also the absolute and relative amount of the urea excreted. It appears pretty distinctly from the figures that, as compared with that of normal individuals, the urine of patients in the excited phase of circular insanity has a much higher reducing power. In the depressed stage, this is also found, but in a very much lower degree. In correspondence with this result the amount of urea excreted in the twenty-four hours was considerably under the average in both phases of the circular disease. The paper is chiefly of interest with reference to the differences in metabolism in gay and depressed motional states in the same individual.

W. C. SULLIVAN.

3. Ætiology of Insanity.

The Influence of Season on the Organism [*Contribution Statistique à la Réaction de l'organisme sous l'influence Physico-Chimique des agents Météorologiques*]. (*Arch. d'Anth. Crim., Feb. 15th, 1909.*) Gaedeken, P.

Dr. Gaedeken, of Copenhagen, here brings forward a very interesting and original contribution to a much-debated question. It has long been known that the second quarter of the year has a marked influence in increasing various social phenomena of nervous and psychic character, notably suicide, the onset of insanity, conceptions, and sexual offences. A number of explanations of different order have