

*Les Rapports des Langages Néologiques et des Idées Délirantes.* Par le Docteur G. TEULIÉ. Paris: Auguste Picard, 1928. Roy. 8vo. Pp. 165. Price 25 fr..

In 1905 Trénel pointed out that neologisms mean more than the mere invention of words; that in some cases inventions occurred in the syntax, whilst in others inventions occurred in both words and syntax. The author has adopted Trénel's classification. Neological speech consists in the exaggerated use of neologisms, so that neologisms and neological speech are merely different degrees of one and the same phenomenon. They are met with in the same type of patient (chronic delusional and the paranoid form of dementia præcox); they can be divided into the same classes; they present the same clinical characters; they are the result of the same pathogenic mechanism; and the prognosis is equally bad in both cases.

(1) *Pseudo-incoherent speech*.—Here the words are grouped together in sentences according to rules of syntax invented by the patient. His language appears to be incoherent, whereas in reality he is simply employing his own syntax. Examples of this type are the speaking of oneself in the third person singular or in the plural, and the suppression of categories of terms—articles, nouns, verbs, etc.

(2) *Glossomania*.—In this type the vocabulary is modified. The characteristic feature of glossomania is a play on words or syllables. Thus the patient may repeat a long series of similar sounding words or syllables, or he may pour out long lists of words beginning with the same letter or syllable. The words and syllables, as a rule, have no apparent meaning, and are absolutely incomprehensible to the listener. Under the influence of his delusions the patient sometimes imagines he is talking some foreign language.

The patients of this class all show chronic delusions—as a rule of the grandiose variety—with the following characteristics: (a) little tendency to systematization, (b) absurdity, and (c) variability. They present a certain degree of mania, being euphoric, self-satisfied and glad to show off their talents and their knowledge.

(3) *True glossolalia*.—In this type new words are coined, which always have the same significance, and are related to each other according to the patient's rules of syntax. Usually the number of words invented is not great, and the grammatical and syntactic rules are borrowed from languages with which the patient has been acquainted. One of the great differences between true glossolalia and glossomania is the constancy in the meaning of the words used in the former, whereas the glossomaniac frequently uses different words to express the same object—he creates words according to the inspiration of the moment.

True glossolalia is invariably associated with the paranoid form of dementia præcox. The delusions are poorly systematized, absurd and polymorphous. They are evolved out of phantasy-formation. The patient, having progressively detached himself from reality, feels the need of compensation. He therefore

creates a world of his own in which he himself usually figures as the hero. This is the origin of his delusions of grandeur. He imagines he is a scholar, a saint, a superman. His acquaintance with languages and with mysticism may lead him to believe he is able to speak a language unknown to others; this belief helps to convince him that he is unique. The influence of delusions secondary to phantasy-formation thus becomes apparent in true glossolalia.

Education has little influence in the causation of pseudo-incoherence, as it develops in the illiterate quite as often as in the highly educated individual. On the other hand both glossomania and true glossolalia are, as a rule, found among patients whose education has reached a fairly high standard. The author has found that these patients are frequently able to speak other languages than their own, and it is owing to the fact that the patient has a particular inclination and sometimes a real aptitude for expressing himself in more than one language, that he feels impelled to employ some language other than those with which he is already acquainted. The author insists that chronic delusions are the fundamental cause of all three types of neological speech. Next in importance he places mental excitement, though this is least in evidence in true glossolalia.

Dr. Teulié has carefully sifted the evidence of previous writers on the subject, and made an exhaustive analysis of cases under his own observation. The book is an important contribution to psychiatry and should be of great practical value.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

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*Psychophysiologie et Psychopathologie du Corps Thyroïde.* Par le Dr. A. Sicco, Professeur de Psychiatrie à la Faculté de Médecine de Montevideo. Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. Crown 8vo. Pp. 100. Price 10 fr.

Dr. Sicco's instructive little book is a valuable contribution to the Félix Alcan series. Its hundred pages contain much of the recent work on the ductless glands. Throughout, his viewpoint is typically Gallic, in that he endeavours to correlate psychological processes with their physiological equivalents. Such works are valuable as a corrective to those publications which neglect the physical processes of mind.

The book commences with a *résumé* of glandular activity in relation to pathological conditions. The writer then proceeds to a detailed account of thyroid function, the *rôle* it plays in foetal life and later, in the growth of the individual, and its effects on the psychic life and the instinctive reactions both in the normal and abnormal. English writers will not have much difficulty in accepting the majority of the premises put forward; one statement, however, appears contrary to neurological teaching in this country, for on p. 30 we find an allusion to the sympathetic supply of the brain.

The last twenty pages are devoted to case-histories, with