

know it potentially, etc. According to Westphal the most important form of consciousness for the sequence of thought is the grade of potential knowing, which is indispensable for the succession of a long series of concepts.

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*Report of Experiments at the State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, N. Y. (Psych. Rev., vol. xx, No. 3, May, 1913.) Rowland, E.*

The object of Miss Rowland's experiments was to find out whether a practical set of tests could be devised which would, on application to a given girl, determine whether she was so deficient mentally as to be unable to profit by the training given in the reformatory. The tests included experiments in reaction time, memory, attention, and direct and indirect suggestibility. The different tests under each heading gave nine records in all. For each record a standard of normality was arbitrarily chosen, and every girl who fell below this standard was marked as failing in the test. A girl who failed in six out of the nine tests was regarded as subnormal. The several tests were selected from the very large material available in the American text-books and psychological journals, and did not include any new features. They were tried on thirty-five girls, of whom eleven were found on the basis of the results to be subnormal. In all but two cases this grading tallied with the estimate formed of the girls' capacity by the superintendent. A comparison with a number of girl students at two American colleges showed that nearly all the tests were successfully passed by educated subjects of similar age to the Bedford inmates. The method appears to be rather rough and ready, and it is vitiated by the arbitrary character of the standard. The choice of the tests is also open to criticism: reaction-time, for instance, is certainly not a reliable index of intelligence. At the end of the paper the author adds the interesting detail that since the date of the experiments a resident psychologist has been installed at Bedford.

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*Influence of Alcohol on Some Mental Processes in Children [Influenza dell'alcool su alcuni processi mentali nei fanciulli]. (Riv. di Psychol., anno ix, No. 3, May-June, 1913.) Sertoli, V.*

Signora Sertoli's experiments were directed to testing the effect of small amounts of alcohol on the attention and the memory. The subjects of the experiments were three school-children, a girl *æt.* 10, and two boys, *æt.* respectively 14 and 16. Attention was tested by Ebbinghaus's "combination" method, and memory by learning passages of poetry by heart. In each case the normal capacity of the subject was ascertained by a preliminary series of tests. The alcohol was given in the form of Marsala, but nothing is stated as to the doses, except that they were moderate and proportioned to the ages of the children. The experiments went to show that a slight degree of alcoholic excitement renders attention quicker and, so to speak, more intense, but less stable; also that it makes mnemonic fixation more rapid and more clear, but decreases retentiveness. It greatly augments, however, the power of evocation, producing an exuberant revival of latent impressions. Finally, it causes the diminution or disappearance of certain emotions, more particularly of such as restrict human activity, notably,

for instance, the emotion of timidity. These results are in several points in contradiction with the conclusions arrived at by Kraepelin in his well-known investigations, and this is the more surprising in that Effingham's "combination" method, which was employed by Signora Sertoli, is largely a test of judgment, and most observers have found that accuracy of judgment is decreased by alcohol. In Signora Sertoli's experiments, not only was the rapidity of the reaction increased, but the proportion of errors and omissions was notably lessened.

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## 2. Clinical Psychiatry.

*Periodic Dementia Præcox* [*La Demence Précoce à évolution circulaire*].  
(*Rev. de Psychiat. et de Psych. Exper.*, Sept., 1913). Halberstadt.

This article is in the main a criticism of Urstein's contention that manic-depressive insanity is not an entity, but often only a periodic form of dementia præcox. Dr. Halberstadt regards the characters of the attacks of manic-depressive insanity as of more importance than its periodicity. He holds that there are eight syndromes of symptoms which are peculiar to this form of mental disorder, each syndrome containing motor, ideational, and affective elements. He points out, on the other hand, the fact that Magnan demonstrated periodic phases of depression and mania in degenerates, so that periodicity is not a feature peculiar to manic-depressive insanity.

Kraepelin describes three intermittent forms of dementia præcox.

First, there is the "circular" variety. This opens with depression, accompanied by auditory hallucinations and hypochondriacal delusions. Later, acute attacks of agitation occur, with impulsive behaviour and mannerisms. Frequent and rapid alternations between calm and agitation may take place. Remissions may occur, but progression of the mental disorder is more common. Finally the scene closes with the dementia characteristic of terminal dementia præcox.

In the "periodic" form the attacks are remarkably regular, varying from alternate days to years in their incidence. The agitation is blind, stereotyped, and impulsive: the typical dementia eventually supervenes. Finally, in the "catatonic" form, initial depression with delusions and hallucinations leads to profound stupor. This in turn gives place to agitation, and eventually to terminal dementia.

In all three forms careful analysis shows that the *ensemble* of symptoms is that characteristic of dementia præcox. Dr. Halberstadt suggests that an intermittent form should be added to the recognised paranoid, hebephrenic, and catatonic form of dementia præcox.

Is it possible for manic-depressive insanity and dementia præcox to occur together? Though descriptions of cases suggestive of this superposition have been described, the writer considers the phenomenon to be sufficiently rare to be neglected in practice. He concludes with the remark that it is useful to remember that manic-depressive insanity is not the only mental disorder which develops intermittently.

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