

acid is associated with the tuberculosis or the dementia præcox. It is suggested that a series of sane tubercular cases should be investigated as controls.

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6. Pharmacology and Treatment.

The Therapeutic Effect of Happiness [*La joie qui guérit*]. (*L'Hygiène Mentale*, vol. xxx, p. 157, Sept.-Oct., 1935.) Pascal, C., and Royer, J.

Under this title the authors have published a case-history which, for them, constitutes a triple problem, namely (1) the therapeutic effect of "hypersthenic" emotions, (2) the late cure of hallucinatory psychoses regarded as chronic, and (3) the basis of the foregoing.

The case was that of a woman who lost her husband, of whom she had been very fond, during the war. She declared that she would rather the Allies had lost the war than that she had lost her husband. This aroused some hostility in the neighbours. She felt persecuted and thought she was the victim of a plot. There were some remissions, but finally in 1930 she became hallucinated and obviously deranged, so that she was sent to hospital. There she soon became extremely psychotic. She was mute, destructive, violent, unoccupiable and continuously hallucinated. The voices told her of evil befalling her children and especially her son, who was imprisoned in the basement of the hospital. The voices heaped insult and threats on her. The visits of her son did not convince her.

At the end of five years her son told her he was married. He brought his young wife to see the patient. The girl called the patient "Mother", which profoundly affected her. She expressed great joy at her son's happiness and her own satisfaction in her daughter-in-law. Immediately she began to improve. Her habits became normal. She asked for work. Within a month or two she was sent home. There she did well and took up her old work of dressmaking. She still had the hallucinations, but said, "I hear them still, but they do not matter".

Darwin and Spencer are quoted as pointing out the futurity of joy, but no credit is given to Shakespeare, who stated this fact earlier. A resumé of the philosophical standpoint is given.

As to the mechanism, the authors say, "Liberated by happiness, her psychic forces created a reintegration".

Regarding the hallucinations an important point, sometimes lost sight of, emerges: "The voices became nothing more than objective sounds which troubled her hearing. No longer were they affectively charged". This has to be tested against Ey's view that hallucinations are the expression of delusion or Mourgue's theory that they are a mechanism of compensation. W. McC. HARROWES.

Mescaline and Depersonalization. (*Journ. Neur. and Psychopath.*, vol. xvi, p. 193, Jan., 1936.) Guttman, E., and Maclay, W. S.

The therapeutic use of mescaline improves depersonalization symptoms in so far as they consist of changes of the surroundings (derealization), not of the self. Mescaline depersonalization is identical with this symptom in morbid states. Patients of the manic-depressive group respond to an intoxication with small doses of mescaline by reactions of their own endogenous types. The patients' experience of the improvement of their symptoms, even if only of short duration, may be used as an adjuvant for psychotherapeutic activity. The patients were unable to distinguish the mescaline depersonalization from the original depersonalization.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Breakdown of Mescaline and Mescaline-like Substances in the Organism. (*Z. Physiol. Chem.*, vol. ccxxxviii, pp. 14-22, 1936.) Slotta, K. H., and Müller, J.

Rabbits are 70 times as tolerant to mescaline, 3, 4, 5-(MeO)₃C₆H₂CH₂CH₂NH₂, the chief alkaloid of peyotl, as human beings. The most striking effect in rabbits