

exhibited. On account of marital difficulties the dissociations became elaborated into a definite second personality, which took the form of a mischievous character-entity, whom the author has named "Susie". The husband became exasperated by "Susie's" pranks, and adopted corporal punishment as a curative measure, the only result of which was to augment the dissociation. The patient was able to escape from her duties and moral standards by unconscious assumption of the irresponsible "Susie" character. The extent to which this could be carried was exemplified at the birth of her second child; by slipping into the "Susie" character she became immune from the pain of childbirth. The case appears to have been "cured" by a great change in the patient's environment. "Susie" was not the only dissociation presented by the patient. In the original reading of this paper, alterations in personality were shown by means of cinematograph pictures, some of which are reproduced.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*A Psycho-Physiological Interpretation of the "Aura". (Brit. Journ. Med. Psych., vol. xii, March, 1933.) Kenneth, J. H.*

The author doubts whether the explanation of the "aura" as due to negative after-images by retino-cerebral induction is complete. Smell-colour synæsthesiæ are suggested as a further interpretation. These associations are called by Stoddart "photisms". There is a relationship between visual and olfactory experience, as albinos are deficient in the discrimination of odours, and like the retina, the olfactory mucous membrane is normally pigmented. Visual experience due to wider affective stimuli, and subliminal olfactory or electrical stimuli emanating from human beings, cannot be excluded from a rational explanation of the "aura".

F. H. HEALEY.

*A Psychological Case Study of the Amyostatic-Akinetic Form of Encephalitis Lethargica. (Brit. Journ. Med. Psych., vol. xii, March, 1933.) Edwards, K. H. R.*

A full description is given of the family history and psychological make-up of a male patient, æt. 36. A mental illness of the schizophrenic type is described in this patient, and attributed to the effects of an attack of encephalitis lethargica in 1931. It is admitted that the patient was destined for a psychosis, but it is claimed that the encephalitis lethargica was the precipitating factor. There is a discussion on the effect of encephalitis lethargica on the personality. Many references are made to von Economo's *Encephalitis Lethargica* (1931). The author disputes the statement made in this book that in encephalitis lethargica the thymo-psyche alone is affected, and that encephalitis lethargica has given anatomical proof of the separate existence of the two psychological mechanisms, thymo-psyche and noö-psyche. Pavlov's work is used in the explanation of the incidence and continuance of the somnolent and stuporose states in this disease.

F. H. HEALEY.

### 3. Psychiatry.

*The Psychiatric Approach of the Practitioner to his Patients. (Bull. of the New York Acad. of Med., March, 1933.) Raynor Mortimer, W.*

After a historical introduction the author gives a review of the development of mental processes, with a simple description of new psychological conceptions. The importance of a full history or longitudinal survey of the patient is stressed, and the necessity of making a cross-sectional survey of the personality make-up of the patient at the level of the complaint. The relationship between bodily and mental illness is discussed, and it is pointed out how physical disorders impair the psychological defence mechanisms and act as a release to personality disorders. Mental health indicates an adequate level of integration of the whole biological unit. Examples are given of the author's method of approach to his psychiatric cases.

F. H. HEALEY.