

puberty with a transformation of character, in an individual with a perfectly normal childhood. They cite affective disturbances, indifference, hostility and asocialism as the main features. A valuable section of the paper is devoted to the character abnormalities of moral perverts, epileptics, post-encephalitics and cyclothymics with their differential diagnosis. A final section is devoted to pathogenesis. They dismiss the psycho-analytical theory, Kretschmer's theory of character types and Bleuler's theory of autism in short paragraphs, admitting, however, that it is not yet possible to give satisfactory proof of the infective or toxic origin of the disease.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Clinical Study of Presenile Melancholic Dementia.* (*Ann. Med. Psych.*, May, 1930.) Halberstadt.

The writer describes three cases representative of a special form of presenile insanity. The condition has a sudden onset between the ages of 40 and 45. The initial melancholic syndrome is associated with stereotypy and mannerisms, and is invariably followed by a rapid and progressive dementia, in which, however, traces of the original affective state are preserved.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*The Mirror Sign in the Psychoses, and more especially in Dementia Præcox.* (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, January, 1930.) Abely, Paul.

By specific inquiry when history taking, by personal observation and by the experiment of distributing mirrors among a group of suitable cases, the writer has come to the conclusion that certain psychotics show a morbid degree of interest in gazing at themselves in a reflecting surface. He finds the sign in many psychoses, but of most value in the prodromal stage of dementia præcox, when it is usually associated with soliloquy and autistic thinking. The phenomenon is explained on Freudian principles.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Symptomatic Dementia Præcox in Encephalitics.* (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, June, 1930.) Marchand, L.

A clinical and histological report of seven cases of dementia præcox, in whom an autopsy had been performed 11 months, 1, 3, 4, 7, 11 and 17 years after the onset of the disease. In each case there was evidence of cortical or meningo-cortical inflammation. All showed the presence of satellite cells in the deeper cortical layers and of perivascular infiltration, while in some there had been infiltration of the pia mater with embryonic cells. The writer concludes that in at least a proportion of cases of dementia præcox, the degeneration changes in the cortical neurons are preceded by an inflammatory process.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*Encephalographic Studies in Cryptogenic Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Notkin, J.

The author points out that a dilated ventricle and a large accumulation of air in the subarachnoid spaces in a roentgenogram must