

common perceptual objects easily lose their common perceptual characteristics. Slight variations in light or in the position of the object bring out in the patient responses similar to those of normal persons to the Rorschach tests. Just as normal persons may see fairies, faces, landscapes, etc., in the ink-blot, the schizophrenic attaches to objects the most extraordinary meanings if there is the slightest change in their customary appearance.

The author does not look on schizophrenia as a psychogenic disorder. Disturbances in concept formation are the immediate result of the disease, not its cause.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Sleep and its Relationship to Schizophrenia.* (*Journ. Neur. and Psychopath.*, vol. xiv, p. 247, Jan., 1934.) Ewen, J. H.

The writer discusses the Hess theory of sleep, which postulates sleep as a vegetative process by which the autonomic nervous system regulates the activity of the higher cerebral functions. He investigated 10 cases of schizophrenia, and found that their total number of hours of sleep was greater than that of 10 normal persons, that 7 had miosis, and that ergotamine was without action on the duration of sleep or on the size of the pupils. The carotid sinus reflex was present in all 10. He considers that many of the signs and symptoms of schizophrenia are those of over-activity of the parasympathetic.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Familial Organic Psychosis (Alzheimer's Type).* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxi, p. 737, April, 1934.) Lowerberg, K., and Waggoner, R. W.

The authors describe a case of Alzheimer's disease in a man who died at the age of 37. Four other members of the family had died in their fourth decade from somewhat similar conditions, all undoubtedly Alzheimer's disease. The early age and the presence of so marked a heredity have not previously been emphasized in Alzheimer's disease. From a clinical viewpoint cases may be divided into the presenile type which is the commonest, the juvenile type which is rare, and an intermediary type.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Somnambulism in the Intoxications [Sonambulismo nas intoxicações].* (*Revista da Assoc. Paulista de Med.*, vol. iv, p. 20, Jan., 1934.) Alvim, J. F., and de Alvarenga, T.

The authors concentrate upon the determining factors of somnambulism. They believe that observations indicate the presence of two causes—a neurotic predisposition and poisoning. They describe the conditions which cause neurotic patients to be disturbed in sleep. They also describe a case of hysterical somnambulism in a morphinomaniac. They explain the psycho-physiological mechanism as being subordinated to a toxic sensorial excitement, originating during sleep, with association of ideas producing groups of images manifested by hallucinations of sight and hearing. They consider that there is a type, hitherto undescribed, of somnambulism which is characterized by very lively motor reactions, and which they suggest should be known by the name "oneirobania".

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Spiritistic Alienation [Delirio espirita].* (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xli, p. 743, March 8, 1934.) Gorriti, F.

Very few text-books describe this condition as a distinct entity; most writers agree in regarding it as a direct result of the abuse of spiritistic practices, looking upon it as similar to "religious mania" in its mode of development. The author, however, considers that the condition should be regarded as a clinical variety of paranoia. A detailed description of a case is given, including specimens of patient's letters and interpretations given by the patient of "spirit photographs".

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