

from various view-points, *e.g.*, sex, age at onset, duration of symptoms at time of examination and neurological types. Then the authors pass to the affective symptomatology, which is discussed under the headings of (1) emotional content (prevailing mood), (2) psychical determinants, (3) physical determinants, and (4) affective expression and behaviour, numerous tables being appended, with short clinical illustrations. There follows an analysis of individual symptoms under the sub-headings of "exaggeration of emotional expression," "emotional content," "bodily feeling" and "optimism (*spes sclerotica*)," and the authors bring their paper to a close by a discussion of the pathogenesis of affective symptoms.

Among many important conclusions reached are the following :

The affective symptoms are characteristic of the disease, are primary or direct results of the disease-processes, and are completely independent of duration, degree or clinical type. In a fair number of instances they precede the appearance of any somatic neurological symptoms, subjective or objective.

The feeling of well-being may be designated *euphoria sclerotica*, and that of physical well-being *eutonia sclerotica*. The undue optimism exhibited by a majority of patients may be called *spes sclerotica*.

The authors associate the invasion of the affective sphere with the known pathological fact that the disease almost constantly shows a periventricular and subependymal spread, and they regard the comparative integrity of the intellectual faculties as dependent upon the relative conservation of the cortex.

Evidence is adduced which suggests that the affective symptoms are the outcome of invasion of the palæothalamus by the morbid process, and it is concluded that certain psychoses and psychoneuroses characterized by changes in the affective field may have, a toxic or toxi-structural and not a psycho-pathological basis.

WM. MCWILLIAM.

The Normal Course and Expectation of Life in General Paralysis.
(*State Hosp. Quarterly*, August, 1926.) Woodman, R.

The duration of life after admission to the Middletown State Homeopathic Hospital is discussed. In 1872, when no nursing was attempted, duration is stated to have been only nine months. From 1885 to 1900, when nursing attention was given, the average duration was a little over 23 months. From 1907 to 1917, when the cases were given little or no medical treatment, but only nursing attention, as in the previous group, the average duration was 26 months.

G. DE M. RUDOLF.

Weight of the Heart in Dementia Præcox. (*State Hosp. Quarterly*, May, 1926.) Reed, R. G.

The author's paper is based on one by Nolan Lewis entitled "The Constitutional Factors in Dementia Præcox," and deals particularly with the claim that in this psychosis the heart is

characteristically small. Various comments and criticisms are passed on Lewis's findings, and Dr. Reed concludes that the heart in dementia præcox compares favourably with the organ in other psychoses as regards weight; that it is doubtful whether it is usually small in the catatonic and hebephrenic types; and that the opinion seems to be justified that the heart in these patients does not lack the capacity for hypertrophy. WM. McWILLIAM.

Psychological Aspects of a Case of Epidemic Encephalitis. (State Hosp. Quarterly, May, 1926.) Hinsie, L. E.

The author gives clinical details of a case of epidemic encephalitis, which showed psychotic symptoms during the acute stage of the illness and which later developed "hysterical" manifestations. The case was one of a boy, æt. 12. Careful analysis of the mental mechanisms underlying the abnormalities of conduct showed an œdipus background, consisting of a mother-attachment and abnormal stimulation of the sexual instinct. The case was treated by being weaned from his mother through interviews in which he gradually came to an understanding of the significance of his attachment. In the view of the author the brain disease operated as a provocative agent in the conversion mechanism, and that the nearness of puberty contributed no small part.

WM. McWILLIAM.

The Epileptic Psyche. (State Hosp. Quarterly, May, 1926.) Clark, L. Pierce.

In the first section the author deals particularly with the epileptic constitution and alteration in character at the advent of a positive diagnosis of epileptic attacks. This "alteration" is first discussed in detail and two reasons for its occurrence are given *viz.*, the enforced projection of an individual of unstable make-up and with inelastic behaviour response patterns into a continually widening social environment which requires an increasing flexibility of adaptation; and secondly the reflex effect of hampering social customs upon the personal egoistic demands of the epileptic.

Among historic descriptions of the epileptic character reviewed and commented upon are those of Vogt, Sommer, Kræpelin, Arndt, Bianchi and Macpherson. He takes it as proven that (1) there is affective defect in all epileptics, sane as well as insane; (2) the alteration is seen to proceed from the mental make-up or constitution of the individual epileptic long before his malady reaches the convulsive stage; and (3) the dementia is but a further development of the make-up.

WM. McWILLIAM.

Peculiarity of Thought in Schizophrenia. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., July, 1925.) Sullivan, H. S.

In this paper the author presents a psychological study of dementia præcox with the detailed clinical histories of six cases.