

The inherent make-up is the important dynamic element, and is the predisposition to the epileptic seizure epoch.

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2. Clinical Psychiatry.

A Contribution to the Knowledge of the Presenile Psychoses [Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis der präsenilen Psychosen]. (Zeitschr. für die ges. Neur. und. Psychiat., February, 1923.) Oksala, H.

The author emphasises that in the present state of our knowledge classification is necessarily imperfect, and many detailed observations of cases from all points of view are needed, in the hope of basing the grouping of cases on a more definite footing. Towards this end he describes three cases of Kraepelin's clinic, showing a considerable degree of similarity both clinically and pathologically, and he discusses at some length the question of their classification.

Two of them are named pernicious presenile psychoses; the third, which differs mainly in the fact that delusions of pregnancy and attacks resembling tetany are added to the picture, is called an anxiety psychosis. All three appear to be connected in their onset with some financial anxiety, which colours the ideas of self-reproach; in all three a preliminary period of anergic depression is followed by an outbreak of acute agitation in which the over-activity of speech and movement was the expression of a corresponding emotion, and this was followed by a period in which the motor excess became stereotyped in form and the emotion ceased to accompany it. Confusion appeared only occasionally. Rapid physical deterioration and death from intercurrent sepsis followed.

Very detailed investigations were made of all parts of the brains by a great variety of methods. No ductless glands were examined. There were found wide-spread degenerative changes in neurons and neuroglia, with relatively little vascular disorder. The findings were definitely unlike those in senile and arteriosclerotic cases, and resembled most nearly certain types of late dementia præcox of an acute fulminating variety. The changes found were not sufficiently characteristic to justify their separation into a distinct group, and the author suggests that a more complete investigation of inherited constitutions might lead to a means of differentiation of cases of this kind, where pathological methods give no distinctive results.

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Disease Entities and their Grouping [Krankheitsgruppe und Krankheitseinheit]. (Zeitschr. für die ges. Neur. und Psychiat., February, 1923.) Serog, M.

In the first part of this article the writer discusses the utility of classification of diseases and the dangers that classification implies. This is very noticeable in psychiatry, where definite knowledge of ætiology, pathology, and the exact nature of the disease process is as yet not available in so many types of cases. While any diagnostic system is of use in facilitating the comprehension of forms of disease,