

course of treatment has been completed in 28 cases. Of these 28 complete remission was produced in 3, almost complete remission in 8, partial remission in 7, and no improvement in 6 cases; but the patients in the last-named group are quieter and cleaner. There were 3 deaths during treatment; and one of these deaths is regarded as being due to the diathermy.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

6. Pathology and Biochemistry.

The Histopathology of the Brain in Dementia Præcox and the "Racemose Areas of Disintegration" during 1929-31 [*Istopatologica dell'encefalo di dementi precoci e "zolla di disintegrazione a grappolo" nel triennio 1929-31*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xxxix, March-April, 1932.) Buscaino, V. M.

From an extensive review of the literature during the triennium 1929-31, the author concludes that dementia præcox as a pathological process *sui generis* is an organic disease of the central nervous system. Encephalograms go to confirm this. The disease is essentially of degenerative origin. In none of the cases on which these opinions are based were tubercular lesions present, and the cases were not of long standing. Cellular lesions were most frequent. In recent cases there was vacuolar degeneration and atrophy; in chronic cases, fatty degeneration and sclerosis. He considers that the "racemose areas of disintegration", from their staining affinity for mucicarmine, contain galactolipoids. The lesions are mostly in the cortex, but also in the subcortical regions, according to the type of case. In catatonic cases the lesions in the striatum are more pronounced. The frontal lobe is frequently affected. The third cortical layer of cells is usually attacked, and sometimes the fifth and sixth. The lesions vary enormously from one area to another. The author considers that the irregular distribution of the lesions explains the "dissociation" of the disease.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Effect of "Habituation" on Blood-pressure in Schizophrenia. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxix, Jan., 1933.) Freeman, H.

The authors, on studying the systolic and diastolic pressures in 50 cases of schizophrenia in three periods, three months apart, found that both pressures were lower in the second than in the first period. The systolic pressure stayed at approximately the lower level in the third period, but the diastolic pressure rose to an intermediate level. The fall in systolic pressure on repeated determinations is ascribed to habituation to the environmental situation.

This observation seems to emphasize vascular hypotension as a characteristic of the schizophrenic psychosis.

In repose the schizophrenic shows an unusual slump in blood-pressure which the normal individual does not show.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Researches on the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in Dementia Præcox during 1929-31 [*Le ricerche sul liquor dei dementi precoci nel triennio 1929-31*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xxxix, March-April, 1932.) de Giacomi, U.

The author finds from his survey of the literature during 1929-31 that in more than 50% of cases of dementia præcox the fluid presents changes generally small, but nevertheless of importance. These changes consist of a decrease in meningeal permeability and in the rate of reabsorption of the fluid. There is also a slight increase in the protein without any lymphocytosis. These changes are more often found in the hebephrenic-catatonic types than in the paranoid, and in chronic cases more often than in recent ones. The general findings give support to the view that there is in dementia præcox a slow disintegration, slight but progressive, of the cerebral parenchyma, with accumulations of the products in the cerebro-spinal fluid.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.