

applied for police protection, armed themselves with a revolver and took other protective measures. As a result, they have been admitted to a mental hospital. The elder sister appears to be incurable. Separation from the influence of the elder sister has produced some improvement in the younger, but it is likely that her mental deficiency will prevent further improvement.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Church and Individual Security.* (*Amer. Journ. Orthopsychiat.*, vol. iii, Jan., 1933.) Reynolds, B. C.

Psychiatry must accept the limitations in the life-situations of its patients. We must be wary of setting up our personal norms. The church has a contribution to make to individual security, but it must co-operate with psychiatric workers. The clergy must give up preconceived notions of how people ought to think and feel and how they ought to be treated, and must be willing to learn how they actually think and feel and what it is that they desire. The church alone claims to stand for a world of ideals beyond the purposes for which people associate themselves in other organizations; and its belief in an "on-beyond" counts for much in the mental health of many patients.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

#### 4. Neurology.

*The Mental Symptoms Associated with 58 Cases of Cerebral Tumour.* (*Journ. of Neur. and Psycho-pathol.*, vol. xiii, April, 1933.) Minski, L.

Mental symptoms in cases of cerebral tumour depend on the rate of growth of the tumour and the previous personality of the patient. In slow-growing tumours personality changes predominate. In the present series, 14 of 58 examined were depressive and 7 maniacal. In rapidly-growing tumours changes in the intellectual sphere were marked, and personality changes slight. Twenty-five cases showed reactions simulating functional psychoses, and in 12 of these physical signs were absent.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Ætiology of Polyneuritis.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxix, April, 1933.) Wechsler, I. S.

Many cases of polyneuritis are not toxic in origin, but should be grouped with the avitaminoses. Many cases previously regarded as solely due to lead, alcohol, arsenic, etc., may have avitaminosis as an additional factor in causation. Apart from the anti-neuritic vitamins B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>, there is some experimental evidence that the absence of vitamin A and possibly also of C and D can lead to degenerative changes in the spinal cord, the roots and nerves, and that their presence will prevent degeneration caused by poisons which sometimes affect the nervous system.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Abolition of Bulbocapnine Catatonia by Cocaine.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxix, March, 1933.) Buchman, E. F., and Richier, C. P.

The authors investigated the action of cocaine on monkeys which had received doses of bulbocapnine and were in a "catatonic condition". They found that the cocaine abolished the catatonic state at once, while cocaine injected before bulbocapnine prevented its development. The hanging response which appears in macaque monkeys when under the influence of bulbocapnine is abolished by cocaine. As this response is abolished in monkeys by lesions of area 6 of Brodmann, it is possible that this part of the brain may be thrown out of action by bulbocapnine, and cocaine may act on the same area. It has to be remembered, however, that both these drugs act on subcortical centres as well.

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