

within the group. Hereditary factors play a variable part in different cases. We must be prepared, in checking any hypothesis, to find phenotypes numerically falling below genotypes, as they certainly do among monozygotic twins.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Depression and Mental Disease in New York State. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xci, p. 763, Jan., 1935.) Pollock, H. M.

The American economic depression began in October, 1929. Comparative tables for the years 1924-29 and 1929-34 are given. The patient population increased more rapidly in the second than in the first period, the increase being greatest in 1933. The trend in the rate of first admissions has been rising since 1924. The rate of increase of admissions is higher than that of discharges and deaths. A slight upward trend is noted in senile first admissions. Very great increases have occurred in the arterio-sclerotic group. No change in trend is found in the parietic group. A slowly rising trend is found in the alcoholic group; this is more affected by liquor legislation than by economic conditions. The trend in the manic-depressive group is slightly upward. A significant increase in the rate of dementia præcox first admissions has occurred since 1927; the rate was specially high in 1932-33, and this may reflect cumulative effects of the depression. The economic crisis does not appear to be the dominant factor in the increase of first admissions in any one diagnostic group, but it is an important precipitating factor in all groups.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Investigation of Polyuria in Schizophrenia. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xci, p. 1019, March, 1935.) Sleeper, F. H.

The average urinary output in a series of 92 male schizophrenic patients was 2532 c.c., that of 26 healthy controls was 1328 c.c. Restriction of water intake to about 1900 c.c. in 10 patients with very high urinary output resulted in no particular complaints of thirst. The kidneys of schizophrenic patients are able to concentrate and dilute urine within normal limits, in response to the ingestion of 1 litre of water. The anti-diuretic effect of pituitrin is as effective in schizophrenic patients as in normal subjects.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Experimental Catatonia by Means of Derivatives of Mescaline and Adrenaline. (*Proc. Acad. Sci. Amsterdam*, vol. xxxvii, p. 562, 1934.) Noteboom, L.

Experimental catatonia, which is considered an analogue of the syndrome of human catatonia, is produced by mescaline, 3, 4, 5-(OMe)₃C₆H₂C₂H₄NH₂. The author compared the reactions on the central nervous system of cats of the following derivatives of PhC₂H₄NH₂: 3, 4-(OMe)₂, 3, 5-(OMe)₂-4-(OEt), 3, 4-(OMe)₂-5-(OEt) (I), 3, 4-(OEt)₂-5-(OMe), 3, 5-(OMe)₂-4-(benzyloxy), 3, 5-(OMe)₂-4-(OH), 3, 4, 5-(OH)₃ and the following derivatives of phenyl-β-methoxyethylamine: p-(OMe), 3, 4-(OMe)₂, 3, 4, 5-(OMe)₃, 3, 5-(OMe)-4-(benzyloxy). The effects of adrenaline, ephedrine, sympathol and nor-sympathol are also recorded. Detailed protocols are given, but no definite conclusions are reported. In general all the compounds showed some phenomena of experimental catatonia. (I) is the most toxic compound in the series.

C. W. SONDERN (Chem. Abstr.).

4. Neurology.

Subacute Combined Degeneration of the Spinal Cord in Pernicious Anæmia. (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. civ, p. 158, May, 1935.) Straus, M. B., Solomon, P., Schneider, A. J., and Palek, A. J.

Twenty-six patients suffering from pernicious anæmia and advanced combined degeneration of the spinal cord were treated by the intramuscular injection of liver extract for an average period of thirty-four months. The amount of extract given