

state of a child affected with psychosis is always a very arduous task. It is necessary to decide whether we are dealing with a case of deterioration of the intellectual functions in consequence of a psychotic process, or with a simple suspension of development of intelligence characteristic of an oligophrenic state. The two conditions may, of course, co-exist.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Parent-Child Relationship in Schizophrenia.* (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 249, March, 1934.) Kasanin, J., Knight, E., and Sage, P.

The authors found, in a series of 45 unselected cases of schizophrenia, that maternal over-protection was present in 60% of cases. The over-protection frequently extends into adult life, and even into hospital. The biological inferiority of the schizophrenic child is easily detected by the parents, and serves as one of the principal causes of over-protection. The over-protection hinders emancipation from the parents and psycho-sexual development.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Relation between Oral and Rectal Temperatures in Normal and Schizophrenic Subjects.* (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, vol. clxxxviii, p. 68, July, 1934.) Carmichael, H. T., and Linder, F. E.

The writers found that the mean oral temperatures were  $0.95^{\circ}$  F. lower in normals and  $0.54^{\circ}$  F. lower in schizophrenics. The normal subjects individually showed more variability than did the individual schizophrenics. The normal subjects had a lower mean oral temperature than the patients, but essentially the same mean rectal temperature. The writer thinks that the heat-regulating mechanism in the schizophrenic subjects may be different from that of normals.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Studies in Catatonia. II. Central Control of Flexibilitas Cereæ.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. viii, p. 538, July, 1934.) Forbes, T. W.

Flexibilitas cerea disappeared during sleep in five patients, the motility of these being much greater during sleep, and approaching, although not reaching, the range to be expected from normal sleepers. Eight non-cataplectic dementia præcox patients showed no marked change between the waking and the sleep state in similar records of motility. Any theory which attempts to explain the "waxy state" must account for the quick reversibility obtained at the onset or end of sleep.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Bodily Postures Assumed while Sleeping.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. viii, p. 546, July, 1934.) du Bois, P. H., and Forbes, T. W.

The authors, from an investigation in 10 catatonics, found that less than 10% showed a foetal posture in sleep. There was no apparent difference from normal subjects, i.e., no evidence was found to support Kempf's theory of regression, so far as foetal postures were concerned. Two patients who maintained extreme foetal positions while awake were found to assume normal positions during sleep.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Suicide [Del suicidio].* (*La Semana Med.*, vol. xli, p. 159, July 19th, 1934.) Bafico, J. B.

The author reviews the various judgments which have been passed upon the act of self-destruction at different epochs of history, and by the great religious and philosophical systems. He gives statistics of the suicides in Buenos Aires during the four years 1930-33. These statistics show the high place held by cyanide of potassium poisoning as the method adopted. The various causes that conduce to the act of suicide are considered, and it is shown how these causes interact. The author pleads for a prophylactic campaign against suicide. In order to be successful this campaign must be based upon our knowledge of the

causative factors of suicide, and such knowledge depends upon our possession of far more detailed information than is, at present, provided in the customary statistics.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Encephalographic Studies in Manic-Depressive Psychosis.* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxi, p. 1194, June, 1934.) Moore, M. T., et alia.

The authors examined 38 cases, and found that in the majority the spinal fluid pressure was top normal or higher, indicating the presence of chronic increased intracranial pressure.

The encephalographic pathological condition is manifested by (1) cortical atrophy of varying intensity; (2) enlargement of the ventricular system; (3) asymmetry of the lateral ventricles; (4) absence of cortical air markings; (5) enlargement of the cisterns; (6) atrophy of the island of Reil; (7) enlargement of the sulcus callosi and sulcus cinguli; (8) increased interhemispheric air; and (9) cerebellar atrophy.

None of the encephalographic films showed a normal cerebral pattern.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Involuntional Melancholia.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. ciii, p. 13, July 7, 1934.) Werner, A. A., et alia.

The writers studied 41 cases of involuntional melancholia. Twenty-one of the women were given 1 c.c. of theelin intramuscularly daily. The rest were used as controls. The improvement in the 21 on theelin was greatly accelerated by the hormone. Possibly larger doses might produce more rapidly beneficial effects. When a favourable response is manifested, the improvement is gradual and continuous. When the patients became more rational it was found that they did better in home surroundings, with the treatment continued for some two months after apparent recovery.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Depressions with Tension.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxii, p. 328, Aug., 1934.) Muncie, W.

The author describes what he calls depression with tension. Tension the patient describes as a feeling of being taut under strain and unable to relax, and it finds expression in statements of dissatisfaction, discontent and in restless, anxious attitudes. The special physiological manifestations belong in part to the phenomena of autonomic imbalance, with evidence of sympathetic preponderance. There are anxiety symptoms referred to the heart. There appear to be definite precipitating factors in an intolerable, or at least not accepted situation. The condition is usually prolonged, and often leaves residuals in the nature of hypochondriac or apprehensive invalidism. Treatment is difficult, because the patient is unable to arrive at a consistent working agreement with the environment, and to face his problems with decision. The author finds the continuous bath, together with barbital in small doses (2.5 gr.) two to four times a day, helpful.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Skin-reaction of Ceni in Chronic Alcoholics* [*La geno-cuti-reazione negli alcoolisti cronici*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xlii, p. 699, Nov.-Dec., 1933.) Perniola, F.

The skin reaction of Ceni which is allied to the von Pirquet reaction, and consists in injecting an aqueous extract of sexual glands under the skin, was applied to 68 chronic alcoholics. It was found to be negative or weakly positive in 94.1% of cases. It was directly related to the mental state of the individual and independent of his physical condition. Twenty-two of the cases gave a weak positive result.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.