

*Studies in the Excretion of Phosphoric Acid in Urine in the Psychoses* [*Studien über die Entleerung von Phosphorsäure mit dem Harn bei Psychosen*]. (*Zeitschr. für die gez. Neur. und Psychiat.*, April, 1924.) Tsuchiya, S.

In this paper the author describes his work on the estimation of the diurnal phosphoric acid in the urine, which he determined by precipitation with uranium nitrate. He states on the authority of Votaire that of the total thus found about two-thirds are excreted as potassium phosphate and one-third as phosphates of sodium, magnesium and calcium, while between 1 and 5 *per cent.* is in organic combination.

In his series of 10 normal people the average daily excretion was 1.5 to 5.6 gm. phosphoric acid, which agrees with observations by others. In 11 cases of neurasthenia the average excretion was 2.4 times that of the normals; 2 cases had normal values, while of the rest the lowest was equal to the highest normal, and many were very high—the highest being 13.3 gm. This increase is mainly in the calcium phosphate, and is greatest in the cases where sleep was poor. This is ascribed by Klemperer to an increased acidity of the gastric secretion, which leads to greater absorption of calcium as chloride, with diminished excretion by the bowel.

In 18 manic-depressive cases there was an average increase of more than twice the normal, both in excited and depressed cases, and in those convalescing; the highest values were 24 gm. in an improving maniac and 9.9 in an improving melancholic, while a number of both were within normal limits.

In 5 epileptics specimens examined before and shortly after an attack, the lowest values were before and the highest shortly after a fit, while the average was about twice the normal.

In 20 cases of dementia præcox, 9 hebephrenics, not very advanced cases, and 2 dementia paranoides showed values on the average slightly lower than normal; in quiet catatonics the average was 1.3 times the normal, while in excited ones it was about twice normal.

In dementia paralytica 16 cases gave an average of 1.6 times the normal, while in 3 who died within twenty-four hours after the specimens were taken there were enormous values—37, 27 and 17 gm.

M. R. BARKAS.

*Dementia Præcox: Some Preliminary Observations on Brains from Carefully Selected Cases and a Consideration of Certain Sources of Error.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, January, 1924.) Dunlap, Charles B.

In this paper the author challenges a number of the findings which have been described in the brains of cases of dementia præcox. He deals especially with a number of points which have been described by reliable investigators, and among those whose work is challenged are such famous workers as Alzheimer, Nissl, Mott and Vogt.

He selected eight cases of dementia præcox and five controls.