

Acquired Hydrocephalus. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) *Pierce, L. B.*

A report of two cases occurring in adults. The greater number of such cases are caused by obstruction to the normal circulation of the cerebro-spinal fluid, resulting in its accumulation in the ventricles. Both the present cases were of this type. The first case was due to a primary ependymitis, with occlusion of the aqueduct of Sylvius. The second case was of the so-called communicating type; the hydrocephalus was produced by interference with absorption of the fluid as a result of adhesions which obliterated the cisternæ. These adhesions must have been occasioned by a form of meningitis or arachnoiditis.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Cerebral Birth Conditions with Special Reference to the Factor of Hæmorrhage. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) *Patten, C. A., and Alpers, B. J.*

Many cerebral birth conditions are primarily due to failure of development of the brain, particularly in the realm of myelinization. Evidence of this was found in a study of 30 infant brains, both term and premature. Punctate and large hæmorrhages were found in the subependymal region, involving the matrix area, causing destruction of spongioblasts which would be eventually concerned in the deposit of myelin. The factor of subarachnoid hæmorrhage as a cause of these cerebral conditions is discounted as compared with the more vital hæmorrhage in the subependymal region. The cause of these hæmorrhages is not clear.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

A Form of Progressive Cerebral Sclerosis in Infants Associated with Primary Degeneration of the Interfascicular Glia. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psycho-pathol.*, vol. xiii, April, 1933.) *Greenfield, J. G.*

Two cases of cerebral sclerosis in young children are described. The demyelination affected the white matter of the cerebral hemisphere diffusely, but the optic radiations and the pyramidal tracts were relatively spared. The interfascicular oligodendrocytes were absent in the case with the longer history, and much degenerated in that with the shorter history. There was a great accumulation of mucinoid and abnormal lipid granules. The author suggests that the primary cause of the condition is an inability to form the proper lipid material for the formation of myelin.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

5. Criminology.

Psychiatry and its Relationship to the Administration of the Criminal Law. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, Jan., 1933.) *Nelson, W.*

This article is based upon eight years' experience at St. Louis. There is an increasing tendency to seek the advice of a psychiatrist. Being called directly by the court removes the suspicion of possible bias in the examiner. In this way there have been examined 410 cases. Of these, only 7 were found to be of normal mentality (it must be remembered that the cases were selected). Psychopathic personality was found in 136, and feeble-mindedness in 95. The recommendations of the examiner were adopted by the court in about 75% of the cases. The official statements of the offences charged give very little information as to their real nature. Sex offences of various kinds represented 16% of the cases examined. The law is more static than are the persons who administer it. There should be no difficulty in dealing effectively with offenders against the social code, while yet disposing of them in accordance with the scientific facts. Freedom of the examiner from the suspicion of bias greatly increases the value which is assigned to his opinion. Medical students should receive more instruction in these matters.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.