

Digestion and Mental Disease: An Analysis of One Hundred Consecutive Fractional Test-Meals, with Some Animal Experiments. (Med. Journ. of Australia, May 8, 1926.) Bostock, John.

CONCLUSIONS.—(1) Achlorhydria and hypochlorhydria are discovered to be surprisingly frequent in the psychoses; it is not inferred that they are causal, but that they are expressions of the general psycho-physical change.

(2) The mode of production of these physiological changes is not precisely determined, but it is probable that a large number of factors are involved, the most important of these being:

(a) The psyche including alterations in the emotion of hunger.

(b) Changes in the motility of the stomach, sphincter mechanisms and the duodenal alkaline reflux.

(3) Evidence is adduced concerning the possibility of an intimate functional connection between the vagal nucleus, the thyroid gland and digestion. A preliminary investigation shows that achlorhydria is relatively more common in rabbits whose thyroids have been removed than in normal controls. J. R. LORD.

The Blood-Sugar Curve in Mental Disease. (Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., October, 1926.) Kasanin, F.

Determinations of blood-sugar curve were made, according to the technique of Janney and Isaacson, in 33 schizophrenics. The average curve of patients both in the literature and in this series falls well within normal limits, although the percentage of abnormal sugar curves is much higher than in healthy subjects. Patients with a stupor usually respond with a high sustained sugar curve.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

4. Treatment.

Presentation of the Psychiatric Point of View to the Occupational Therapist. (Occup. Therap. and Rehabil., August, 1926.) MacLachlan, M.

The author urges the importance to the occupational therapist of the closer study of mental disorders and their nature, laying especial stress on a comprehension of the patient's make-up, of the causes which operated in each case, and on the mechanism of the reactions. Under the heading of "treatment" it is stated that one of the most important things "is to prevent a display of sympathy, but to show a very sincere interest"; and the second "is to have an entire lack of criticism and avoid any judgment of the case." In concluding paragraphs some types of reaction are discussed. Wm. McWILLIAM.