

taken in the excursion of the needle (approximately four seconds in travelling 7 cm.), appears to be open to considerable error as regards the compilation of statistics. On the other hand it does not detract from the practical usefulness and ingenuity of Guidi's apparatus, which, as he points out, might prove of considerable practical value in educational work.

G. F. BARHAM.

*The Visualisation of Thought* [*Über das Symptom des Gedanken-Sichtbarwerdens*]. (*Allg. Zeits. für Psychiat.*, Bd. 65, H. 3.) Halbey, K.

We have had cases in which patients have complained that the thoughts which occurred to them were repeated into their ears in a loud voice. Sometimes they attribute this annoyance to bad spirits, or say that their thoughts were extracted by some fanciful machinery. This has been called "double-thinking" (*doppel-denken*). In some cases optical hallucinations follow the thoughts conceived. In coining a name for this rare symptom Dr. Halbey has drawn heavily upon the alphabet. He calls it *gedanken-sichtbarwerdens*. The instance described in his paper was a student of philosophy, æt. 25, who entered a private asylum in October, 1902, and was afterwards passed into the provincial asylum of Uckermünde, where apparently he still was when the paper was written. He suffered from excitement, sleeplessness, refusal of food and progressive dementia. He complained of the voices of men and women shouting in his ear what he read and thought, and on February 13th, 1907, he first saw cobwebs floating in the air and asked the physician to take them away. Going to attend a religious service, the words of the preacher appeared before his eyes in stenographic lines floating in the air about six or eight yards off. These hallucinations followed the movements of his eyes. He had practised shorthand. Words and images which he had conceived appeared before his eyes, so that these hallucinations became more frequent than any other. A rough sketch is reproduced representing the visual images which floated before the eyes of the patient.

Dr. Klink found in his own person that after the subcutaneous injection of 1 mgrm. of hyoscine he had hallucinations of sight, and that his own words appeared so to reverberate in his ears that he was in doubt whether the words did not come from without.

Dr. Halbey discusses various explanations of these symptoms. The one with which he appears satisfied is thus given: The perception centre (in this case the visual, not the auditory one) is in a high state of excitement, so as to receive stimuli from the thinking process in the apperception cells, conducted by the association paths, and under this condition these optical hallucinations are evolved, at first taking the form of floating webs, and then passing into more definite appearances.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

*Muscular Tone* [*Mesure du Tonus musculaire à l'aide d'un myotonometre*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat.*, Sept., 1908.) Hartenberg, M. P.

The author has, with a special instrument of his own device, measured muscular tone in physiological and pathological states. He finds that in health it is more marked in the morning than at night, whilst it is

diminished under general fatigue. At first it is increased by work and local fatigue of the muscle, but it soon falls if these are continued. Elongation of the muscle lessens the tone. Faradisation, cold baths, strychnine and caffeine all made it more marked. Lastly it bore no direct relation to the dynamical force. In pathological states it is augmented in spasmodic tabes, insular sclerosis and contractures, whilst the reverse is noted in the myopathies, chorea, and flabby hemiplegia.

SIDNEY CLARKE.

*Researches on the Reducing Power of the Urine in Maniac-melancholic Insanity* [*Ricerche sul Potere Riducente delle Urine nella Frenosi Maniac-depressiva*]. (*Il Manicomio, Anno xxiv, No. 2, 1908.*) Pini.

In continuation of other researches which he has made regarding the modifications of metabolism in mental disease, Dr. Pini records in this paper the results of an investigation into the reducing power of the urine in six cases of maniac-melancholic insanity (Kraepelin) approximating to the type of *folie circulaire*. Control experiments were made on ten normal individuals. The method used for estimating the reducing power was that introduced by Helier (*Comptes-rendus de l'Académie des Sciences, 1899*), and modified by Lucatello, in which permanganate of potash is the oxygenating agent. The results are given in a series of tables showing for several periods of six days the reducing power (measured in cubic centimetres of the deci-normal solution) of the total volume of urine passed in the twenty-four hours, absolutely and relatively to the body-weight, and also the absolute and relative amount of the urea excreted. It appears pretty distinctly from the figures that, as compared with that of normal individuals, the urine of patients in the excited phase of circular insanity has a much higher reducing power. In the depressed stage, this is also found, but in a very much lower degree. In correspondence with this result the amount of urea excreted in the twenty-four hours was considerably under the average in both phases of the circular disease. The paper is chiefly of interest with reference to the differences in metabolism in gay and depressed motional states in the same individual.

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### 3. Ætiology of Insanity.

*The Influence of Season on the Organism* [*Contribution Statistique à la Réaction de l'organisme sous l'influence Physico-Chimique des agents Météorologiques*]. (*Arch. d'Anth. Crim., Feb. 15th, 1909.*) Gaedeken, P.

Dr. Gaedeken, of Copenhagen, here brings forward a very interesting and original contribution to a much-debated question. It has long been known that the second quarter of the year has a marked influence in increasing various social phenomena of nervous and psychic character, notably suicide, the onset of insanity, conceptions, and sexual offences. A number of explanations of different order have