

Inoculation experiments with the *B. paralyticans* were made on white rats, dogs, and goats; all the animals subsequently exhibited characteristic symptoms, varying from drowsiness, stupor, muscular irritability, ataxia, reeling and stumbling gait, and partial paralysis, up to congestive seizures and death. In the brain of one of the goats and two of the dogs were found cortical changes closely resembling those found in early stages of paralytic dementia. In one instance, during a congestive seizure, the organism was recovered from a vein of the affected dog, and successfully grown again. The virulence of the organism can be increased by passage through a series of dogs; also by growth on a recently devised culture-medium containing a certain percentage of cerebro-spinal fluid. Further details are given of experiments in the use of an anti-serum; of the injection of vaccines made from the *B. paralyticans*, isolated from the patient and injected under the guidance of the opsonic index; and finally of a method of combined active and passive immunisation. Summarising the results of his observations and experiments O'Brien writes:

"We are led to believe that general paresis is a bacterial infection, and that the *B. paralyticans* is the chief ætiological factor, as evidenced by the experimental inoculation of animals with material obtained from cases of paresis and the successful production of a train of symptoms and the pathological picture similar to that of paresis. The protection afforded animals by the use of a bacteriolytic serum lends colour to the fact that an anti-serum will undoubtedly play an important part in the treatment of this disease. This fact is, we believe, further corroborated by the improvement actually observed in certain cases thus treated. Out of eighteen cases under treatment eight have shown considerable improvement. At present we believe the combined treatment to be most effective."

M. EDEN PAUL.

*The Use of Isopral in Insane Patients.* (Rev. de Psychiat., Oct., 1908.) Vallet, A.

Isopral is a hypnotic belonging to the chloral group of drugs. It has hitherto been little used in France. Chemically it is a tri-chloro-isopropyl alcohol; it is in the form of prismatic crystals, readily soluble. After giving details of its employment in more than twenty cases of mental disorder the writer summarises his results as follows: The drug is a useful auxiliary to chloral and one which patients take readily; it induces tranquil sleep. In the doses employed no influence on pulse or temperature was observed, and there were no unpleasant symptoms of any kind. At first it was given in doses of from four to eight grains, but these were found to be rather too small. It may be given without anxiety in an initial dose of ten to fifteen grains.

M. EDEN PAUL.

*A "Protective Bed" for Insane Patients in States of Excitement* [Ueber ein "Schutzbett" fuer erregte Geisteskrankte]. (Psych. Neurol. Wochens., Oct. 10th and 17th, 1908.) Walter, F. K.

One of the greatest difficulties which confronts the alienist in the practical discharge of the duties of his calling is the care of the insane when in a state of motor excitement. A human being in a state in which