

*Notes on Admissions to State Institutions.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, May, 1933.) Adler, H.

The admission-rate of mental disorder may be dependent upon the capacity of institutions rather than upon incidence in the community. It appears impossible to maintain any institution at the population for which it is designed. Pressure from without results in over-crowding before the internal resistances rise to the point where equilibrium can be established. Taking all kinds of state institutions, we find that delinquency predominates in the adolescent period, criminality in young adult life, and mental disease in middle life. One might expect that the frequency of diagnosis of mental deficiency and the average age of the admissions to institutions for the feeble-minded would fall in the decade preceding adolescence, but such is not the case. The decision as to whether a person is sent to a school for special training does not rest upon the diagnosis, but upon the social behaviour of the individual. The question then arises whether there is a similar relationship between the other groups here dealt with.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Relation of Spatial Isolation to Psychosis.* (*Journ. of Abnorm. and Soc. Psychol.*, vol. xxvii, Jan.-March, 1933.) Brooks, L. W.

The consensus of opinion of a representative group of alienists was that isolation *per se* was not a primary cause of mental abnormality. Isolation is rather a precipitating or secondary factor, while the organic condition, the experiential factors and habit patterns of the individual are the primary considerations.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Endocrine Investigation in Psychiatry* [*La exploración endocrina en psiquiatría*]. (*Archivos de Neurobiología*, vol. xii, Sept.-Oct., 1932.) Sempau, J. A.

A critical review of recent progress in this department of clinical investigation. The author considers that the most hopeful prospect lies in the connection of endocrinology with paranoid states and with manic-depressive psychosis.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Bromide Delirium and other Bromide Psychoses.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, May, 1933.) Levin, M.

Seven cases of bromide delirium and one of bromide hallucinosis are presented. In addition to these two types, and to "simple bromide intoxication", there seems to be a possibility that a paranoid state may occur. The distinction between paranoid disorientation and delirious disorientation is indicated. There is evidence that bromide intoxication may precipitate a chronic psychosis, which remains long after the intoxication has subsided. Objections are raised to the hypothesis of "withdrawal delirium".

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Delayed Mental Disorders following Cranial Traumatism and their Psychopathological Interpretation.* (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxvii, March, 1933.) Gordon, A.

From a consideration of eleven cases of cranial injury, without gross neurological symptoms, and in which psychotic manifestations developed many months or years after the injury, the author found that traumata of the affective sphere invariably preceded the onset of the psychosis. Special emphasis was laid on the psychological constitution of these patients, by investigating the biological and mental experiences of early life and the influence of the latter.

Understanding of dynamic factors in the Freudian sense was the guiding principle used by the author.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.