

*Surgery and Psychiatry* [*Chirurgie et Psychiatrie*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, February, 1926.) Courbon, P.

This rather long paper is an interesting and suggestive consideration of the relations between surgery and psychiatry, past, present and potential. Past incursions of the surgeon into the domain of the alienist, dating according to the archæologist from the earliest times, are noted and their lack of success admitted. In addition to craniotomies for various conditions, reference is made to the periodic onslaughts of the surgeon from time to time upon certain organs such as the gonads, the kidneys, the uterus, etc., in the treatment of morbid mental states. The very different viewpoint of the surgeon and of the alienist with regard to their patients is obvious, but how much more emphatic is the difference in the attitude of patients toward on the one hand a surgeon, whose glance may rest only on the body, and on the other a psychiatrist, who may see into the dark places of the mind.

The author considers that at present the only psychopathic states which may be improved by surgery are confusion, hypochondriasis and retarded development in children. He emphasizes the need for care by surgeons in operating on psychopaths, and quotes a number of tragedies which have resulted. He condemns entirely "surgical psychotherapy"—the simulation of an operation to relieve or mitigate a delusion.

Psychiatry may expect assistance from surgery in the future in therapeutics and prophylaxis. Light is required on the phenomena of pain, disorders of cœnesthesia, asthenia, impotence, etc., and valuable data may be gained in operations upon mental patients. Sympathectomy in epilepsy and craniotomy in general paralysis offer promising scope for advances in knowledge. The paper is concluded by a quotation from Lecène, to the effect that surgery has served to eliminate mysticism in medicine.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Polyneuritic Syndrome in a Leper* [*Syndrome de Psychopolyneurite chez un Lèpreux*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, February, 1926.) Peyre, E.-L.

The case of an oriental leper who, in an attack of delirium followed by amnesia, killed his wife. The disease was predominantly nervous and the bodily and mental signs are fully described. The author concludes that leprosy is a possible cause of Korsakoff's syndrome.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*A Contribution to the Study of Chronic Hallucinatory States* [*Contribution à l'Étude des Hallucinoses Chroniques*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, February, 1926.) Halberstadt, G.

The author reports in detail two cases of chronic psychosis characterized by predominant sensorial disorders in the absence of any (known) toxic or infective agent. In one case, of twenty-five years' standing, the hallucinations referred to general sensation, in