

*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

the other, of five years' duration, to hearing only. A careful bibliography of work on chronic hallucinosis is given, and the diagnostic possibilities discussed.

The author tabulates the points of agreement and difference of the two cases, and concludes that hallucinosis is an autonomous syndrome, of equal standing with confusion, depression, etc.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Mental Automatism and Syphilis* [*Automatisme mental et syphilis*]. (*L'Encéph.*, February, 1926.) Heuyer, G., and Sizaret.

The authors describe two cases of mental automatism associated with syphilis, in support of their view that this mental condition may arise from an organic cause.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Angry Excitement of Emotive Origin* [*Agitation coléreuse d'origine émotive*]. (*L'Encéph.*, February, 1926.) Robin, G., and Cénac, M.

This paper is an account of a young man of bad heredity whose father died unexpectedly after a short illness. The patient passed into a state of blind anger, in which he attacked his mother, the doctor, the furniture, and even his dog. He said his father's death was due to negligence. He claimed that he could see his father moving about. The extreme violence lasted for some days, and was followed by partial amnesia. The relations of the case to epilepsy are discussed.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Loss of Weight: Its Importance as an Early Symptom in General Paralysis*. (*Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, July, 1926.) Bunker, H. A.

In a series of 74 male patients loss of weight, often gradual but well marked, was essentially the earliest abnormality noted in 22 cases. In 16, loss of weight had definitely taken place, but as a later manifestation. In 12 of these 38 cases there was a history of bulimia after the loss of weight had set in. In 7 additional cases in which no known loss of weight had taken place, there was likewise a definite history of bulimia.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Mescal Visions and Eidetic Vision*. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychol.*, October, 1926.) Klüver, H.

The author swallowed powdered mescal buttons and describes his experiences. The observations were made with eyes closed. Klüver remarks that he is neither Eidetiker, nor does he possess vivid and complete optical memory images of objects. His observations agreed with other observers that the phenomena defy description. The visions are usually localized at reading distance. They cannot be influenced by thought or will. The observation of the phenomena is accompanied by pleasant feeling—it is a state of enchantment accompanied by restlessness. Noises were increased in intensity. No hunger or thirst was felt during 48 hours; Klüver ate only some bread and bananas. There was an unwillingness to