

Serum diagnosis in Psychiatry [Du Séro-Diagnostic en Psychiatrie].
(*Rev. de Psychiat.*, Oct., 1908.) Marie, A.

The application of bio-diagnostic methods in psychiatry, recent as it is, has already effected modifications in our views regarding the ætiology, prognosis, and therapy of mental disorders, and sero-diagnostic methods have been especially fertile in psychiatric applications. After summarising recent results obtained in this field by other investigators Marie goes on to speak of general paralysis of the insane. Light regarding the nature and origin of this disease may be expected rather from laboratory investigations than from psycho-diagnostic methods. Marie has studied paralytic dementia by means of cultures from the blood and the cerebro-spinal fluid of persons suffering from this disease, by means of sero-agglutinations with both these fluids, and by the opsonic method. He has thus arrived at results which he regards as negating the idea that paralytic dementia is dependent upon infection with the *B. paralyticans* of Ford-Robertson and McRae. Marie, having visited Morningside in 1904, endeavoured, by laboratory investigations on his own clinical material, to check the results obtained by Ford-Robertson and McRae in Scotland and confirmed by O'Brien in the United States.¹

He made bacteriological examinations of the urine, the various tissues, more especially the nervous tissues, the cerebro-spinal fluid and the blood, and was unable to isolate the *Bacillus paralyticans*. With a pure culture of the diphtheroid bacilli received from Scotland, suspended in physiological serum, injections were made in the ears of two rabbits. No result of an infective character was obtained. Robertson having, however, stated that the rabbit was comparatively refractory to infection, further experiments were made by intra-peritoneal injection of the virus on white rats, again without result. Opsonic and sero-agglutinative tests were then made with the bacilli on several cases of paralytic dementia. The results were the reverse of those which would have been obtained had the bacillus been specific. Marie therefore concludes that the *Bacillus paralyticans* is not the specific exciting cause of paralytic dementia. "It appears to be no more than an epi-phenomenon, a result of secondary infection, which may, perhaps, be especially frequent in certain regions—perhaps the Scottish climatic conditions are exceptionably favourable to its development; . . . cachectic paralytic dements may be especially liable to infection without the bacillus being in any way a cause of the disease; it is possible, of course, that the bacillus may be a cause of the consequences or frequent complications of paralytic dementia (ictus, *i.e.*, congestive seizures); and this is a matter well worthy of further study, especially with a view to the prevention of these complications (the anti-paralytic serum of Robertson for the prevention of congestive seizures.)"

M. EDEN PAUL.

On Some Reflexes in Hysteria [De quelques réflexes dans l'hystérie].
(*Gaz. des Hôp.*, Dec. 1st, 1908.) Roger, H.

The author discusses the pharyngeal, conjunctival and pupillary

¹ See page 558, epitome of O'Brien's "Experimental Observations into the Ætiology and Treatment of Paresis."