EPILEPSY OF CURRENT JOURNALS

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY

Vol. 96. No. 5. March 1940.

*Psychiatric Approach to the Treatment of Epilepsy. S. Cobb. 1009.
*Further Experiences with the Use of Sodium Diphenyl Hydantoinate in the Treatment of Convulsive Disorders. H. H. Merritt and T. J. Putnam. 1023.
*A Comparative Study of the Effectiveness of Dilantin Sodium and Phenobarbital in a Group of Epileptics. J. Weinberg and H. H. Goldstein. 1029.
*Dementia Paralytica Accompanied by Manic-Depressive and Schizophrenic Psychoses. D. Rothschild. 1043.

Social Psychiatry—Our Task or a New Profession. S. W. Hartwell. 1089.
Psychoses with Myxedema. R. M. Crowley. 1105.
Behaviours Differences in Mentally Retarded Children measured by a New Behaviour Rating Scale. A. A. Strauss and N. C. Kephart. 1117.
Insulin Shock Treatment of Schizophrenia. F. G. Halpern. 1153.
Psychiatric Facilities in Cincinnati and Ohio. 1191.
*Neuropsychiatric Disorders Occurring in Cushing's Syndrome. N. S. Schleizinger and W. A. Horwitz. 1213.

Epilepsy.—Conditions known as epilepsy and hysteria are defined and the existence of "hystero-epilepsy" is denied. True epilepsy is divided into two main groups: (1) familial and (2) due to cerebral lesion. Hysteria occurs usually in women of immature personality and its essential symptoms are conversion and amnesia. It is found that in true epilepsy increased use of the intellectual faculties decreases the number of fits, hence importance of occupation therapy. Cases are described which were treated by different methods; the best results were obtained by psychotherapy. Tables are given. (H. de P.)

Convulsive Disorders — Treatment by Dilantin Sodium.—A report on 267 cases, 144 of which had been previously reported on, treated by dilantin sodium. All had had other forms of treatment previously. Dosage and toxic effects are described and investigation continues. (H. de P.)

Comparison of Dilantin Sodium and Phenobarbital in Epilepsy.—In a group of 15 cases of idiopathic epilepsy with an average duration of 15-6 years, dilantin sodium was gradually substituted for phenobarbital. Results were satisfactory, though some complications occurred. (H. de P.)

Non-Luetic Abnormalities in Spinal Fluid.—165 patients were investigated in whom no organic cause for the abnormality had been found at a previous examination. In 42 per cent. the abnormality remained unexplained; in 54 per cent. organic disease was confirmed or discovered, of which the most common were cerebral vascular disease and chronic alcoholism. It is suggested that the effects of alcoholism and drug-addiction should be further investigated. (H. de P.)

Frontal Lobectomy.—Cases are described which have survived this operation and which show a wide variation in symptomatology. One case is described in detail with the tests used after removal of a frontal lobe tumour in a man of above average intelligence who showed good response to instruction, but lack of initiative and tendency to stereotypy. It is noted that psychosurgery is the substitution of one disease for another, and suggested that frontal lobectomy destroys the "ability to organize life at a normal cultural and intellectual level." (H. de P.)

Changes in Rhythm of Brain.—Experiments were carried out on the isolated olfactory bulb of the frog. When removed from the body the rhythm improves in amplitude and regularity. Its maintenance depends on a steady flow of energy, which is supplied by the metabolism of the cell. Separate factors controlling brain potential are analysed, and the problem of unification of the beat of many cells discussed. Electrical currents can spread through the brain either by nerve impulses or by electric fields. These functions may be applicable to brain function in epilepsy. (H. de P.)

Cushing's Syndrome.—A case of Cushing's syndrome with psychotic symptoms of depression is described. It is suggested that such symptoms are not uncommon in this condition. The case described was not typical and showed also extra-pyramidal neurological signs. There was a suggestion
of chronic encephalitis, which is not commonly found. It remains in doubt whether the mental symptoms are directly due to hypophyseal dysfunction or to associated dysfunction of other endocrines. (H. de P.)


Preliminary Analysis of Grouping Behaviour in Patients with Cerebral Injury by the Method of Equivalent and Non-Equivalent Stimuli. W. C. Halstead. 1263.

Syphilis in Serum Negative Feeble-minded Children. C. E. Benda. 1295.

Acute General Paresis. M. Herman and M. P. Rosenblum. 1311.

The Long-Term Prisoner. M. Sukov. 1312.

Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment in Ontario Mental Hospitals. C. A. Wicks. 1335.


Psychoses Resembling Schizophrenia occurring with


The President's Address. W. C. Sandy. 1.

Williams Charles Sandy. H. I. Kloppe. 13.

A Study of 100 Patients suffering from Psychosis with Cerebral Arteriosclerosis. H. E. Clow. 16.

The Respiratory Response of Psychoneurotic Patients to Ideational and to Sensory Stimuli. J. E. Finesinger and S. G. Mazik. 27.

Intracranial Tumours in Mental Hospital Patients. C. P. Larson. 49.


The Psychiatric Findings in the Cases of 500 Traffic Offenders and Accident-Prone Drivers. L. S. Selling. 68.


ARCHIVES OF NEUROLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY, CHICAGO

Vol. 43. No. 5. May 1940.

*Personality Changes accompanying Cerebral Lesions : (i) Rorschach Studies of Patients with Cerebral Tumors. M. R. Harrower-Erickson. 839.

**Intracranial Tumors of the Retina in Mental Disease. J. M. Cotton, N. D. C. Lewis, and A. W. Eigner. 891.

*Primary Intracranial Sarcoma. Y. K. Hsu. 901.


*Histologic Changes Following Metrazol Convulsions, with Note on a Fuchsinophilic Reaction as an Index of Early Neurocystic Change. H. Cleckley, L. Bowles, and F. A. Mettler. 948.


*Certain Aspects of Defects of Recent Memory occurring in Psychoses of the Senium. D. E. Cameron. 987.

Case Reports :

Status Epilepticus as a Complication of Metrazol Convulsive Therapy. N. G. Becker and S. I. Stein. 993.

The External Geniculate Bodies: Degeneration Studies following Occipital Lobectomy. W. J. German and B. S. Brody. 997.


Dynamic Disturbances in the Handwriting of Psychotics. T. S. Levinson. 103.


A Study of Insight of Psychiatric Patients. C. W. Osgood. 152.

The Effect of 10 mg. of Benzodrine Sulfate on the Otis Scores of College Students. J. E. Barmack. 163.

Prognostic Criteria in Dementia Paralytica. M. H. Greenhill and M. Yorshis. 167.


Set in the Schizophrenic as measured by a Composite Reaction Time Index. E. H. Rodnick and D. Shakh. 214.

* Indicates a preliminary communication as used by the Archives of Neurology and Psychiatry.
Primary Intracranial Sarcomas.—The tumours described have certain features in common. They are of connective tissue nature and must be derived from the leptomeningeal tissue. They are very cellular and contain numerous mitoses. They form scanty intercellular substances characteristic of connective tissue. They spread mainly along the perivascular and leptomeningeal spaces, but may break out of them into the neural parenchyma and then spread diffusely, without forming a capsule. No two of these tumours are exactly alike. (R. M. S.)

Serum Protein in Schizophrenia.—Long-term studies of 14 patients with schizophrenia, 11 with manic depressive psychoses, and seven with symptoms of both conditions revealed abnormal variations in the nonprotein nitrogen of the blood and in the total proteins, cholesterol, and fatty acids of the serum in all the persons who showed marked changes in clinical status. The patients whose symptoms showed little change rarely had abnormal variations in these constituents. (R. M. S.)

Histological Changes following Metrazol Convulsions.—Serious lesions were found in the brains of all animals which underwent convulsions from metrazol. Strong evidence of chronic neuropathological lesions, in contrast to changes which might be imputed to lethal seizures only, was observed in animals which had seizures over periods of more than 8 days. The degree and extensiveness of the lesions in these experimental animals corresponded in general with the number and severity of the seizures observed. The type of damage to the brain seemed to be influenced by the length of time during which the animal had seizures. (R. M. S.)

Arrest of Circulation to C.N.S.—Permanent pathological lesions may occur in the cerebral cortex of the cat after complete arrest of the circulation for 3 minutes and 10 seconds. Frank necrosis and softening of the cortex have been observed after circulatory interruption for 3 minutes and 25 seconds.

Circulatory arrest for periods in the neighbourhood of 7½ minutes causes complete destruction and liquefaction necrosis of the cerebral cortex. The motor and visual cortices sustain the earliest and most profound damage. The olfactory, orbital, and temporal regions of the cortex are the least susceptible. Lamina I and to a lesser extent lamina II are the least vulnerable of the cortical layers, while laminas III and IV are the most vulnerable. The Purkinje cells rank next to the nerve cells of the cerebral cortex in susceptibility. The lateral geniculate nucleus is the most vulnerable of the basal nuclei in the cat, and it is followed, in order of susceptibility, by the hypothalamic nuclei, the thalamic nuclei, the globus pallidus, and the caudate nucleus. The brain stem and spinal cord are uninjured by periods of circulatory arrest compatible with continued survival of the animal. (R. M. S.)

Defects of Memory in Psychoses of Senium.—It was found that in patients suffering from the psychoses of the senium there are a greatly increased tendency to perseverate and a greatly accelerated tendency to secondary elaboration of memorized data. The first process, by interfering primarily with registration, and the second process, by interfering with retention, contribute materially to the improvement of recent memory in these patients. (R. M. S.)

BRAIN

Vol. 63. No. 2. June 1940.

Gower’s Tract.—Chromatolytic changes were observed in large cells resembling motor neurones in the ventro-lateral fringe of the spinal grey matter of the 12th thoracic and upper six lumbo-sacral segments in monkeys and cats, following cord section. The cells, which were most numerous in the 4th and 5th lumbar segments, gave axones which immediately crossed the midline and ascended in the opposite ventro-lateral white matter. This ascending tract is part of Gower’s tract, and the authors suggest the name “border cells” for the large cells of origin. (D. J. W.)

Polioyelitis Virus.—Polioyelitis virus (Rockefeller M.V.) was introduced into the C.N.S. of sixty Rhesus monkeys via the nose, eye, cortex, cord, and sciatic nerve. The animals were sacrificed in the preparalytic and acute paralytic stages of the disease. The results suggest that the selectivity of the virus is determined by three principal factors—the differential susceptibility of certain areas, their accessibility to an effective concentration, based
CURRENT JOURNALS

upon the kind and quantity of neuronal connection, and the portal of entry, which modifies the second factor. It is possible that immunological processes occurring during the disease enable some cells to survive early sublethal doses. (D. J. W.)

Amyotonia Congenita and Congenital Myopathy.—Study of an affected family shows that amyotonia congenita in infancy changes to non-progressive myopathy in adolescence. The clinical picture of amyotonia congenita may be produced either by a congenital myopathy or by a spinal affection related to the Werdnig-Hoffman disease. (D. J. W.)

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION


Studies on Anacidity: The Hydrogen-ion Concentration of the Gastric Secretion, the Gastroscopic Appearance of the Gastric Mucosa, and the Presence of a Gastric Secretory Depressant in Patients with Anacidity. J. B. Kirchner, P. B. Nutter, and W. L. Palmer. 619.

The Effect of Exercise on the Volume of the Blood. N. L. Kaltsrieder and G. R. Meneely. 627.


Studies on Pain.—(1) A quantitative method for measuring pain thresholds is described. Intense pain in one area raised the threshold elsewhere. Senses of pain and heat were shown to be separate sensations, as also was pain from touch. (2) Using the method previously described the threshold-raising action of various opium derivatives was determined. The smallest amount with which the highest threshold-raising effect was obtained was measured for a variety of opiates. The threshold-raising action of opium derivatives was reduced by pain which preceded or occurred early in the course of the action of the opiate. (J. N. C.)

JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE NEUROLOGY

Vol. 73. No. 1. August 1940


The Innervation of the Supracardial Bodies in the Cat. W. H. Hollingshead. 37.

The Capillary Bed of the Locus Ceruleus. K. H. Finley and S. Cobb. 49.

A Cytoarchitectural Study of the Prefrontal Area of the Macaque Monkey. A. E. Walker. 59.

The Medial Thalamic Nucleus: A Comparative Anatomical, Physiological, and Clinical Study of the Nucleus Medialis Dorsalis Thalami. A. E. Walker. 87.

Thalamic Connections of the Frontal Cortex of the Cat. W. H. Waller. 117.

A Primary and a Secondary Somatic Motor Innervation in Amblystoma. K. A. Youngstrom. 139.


JOURNAL OF MENTAL SCIENCE


Unilateral Hydrocephalus: Report of Two Cases of the Non-Obstructive Type. R. M. Stewart. 591.

Physical Types and Their Relations to Psychotic Types. J. I. Cohen. 602.
**CURRENT JOURNALS**


The Differentiation of Neuroses and Psychoses, with Special Reference to States of Depression and Anxiety. C. H. Rogerston. 632.

Observations on the Autonomic Functions during the Hypoglycemic Treatment of Schizophrenics. C. S. Parker. 645.

Convulsion Therapy by Ammonium Chloride. E. C. Dax. 660.


Mirror Writing in Normal Adults. J. C. Batt. 680.


**JOURNAL OF NERVOUS AND MENTAL DISEASE**

**Vol. 91.**

Colloid (Paraphysial) Cyst of Third Ventricle with Rupture into Caudate Nucleus and Internal Capsule. C. P. Larson. 557.

Regression in Catatonia. G. S. Sprague. 566.

*Beriberic Neuromyeloses.* A. Austresiolo. 579.


Hereditary Combination of a Congenital Deformity of the Nose and of Myoclonic Torsion Dystonia. L. Benedek and E. Rakonitz. 608.

**Vol. 92.**

*The Organization of Psychoanalytic Procedure in the Hospital.* D. M. Bullard. 697.


Protracted Shocks occurring during Insulin Shock Therapy and Their Treatment. F. Kant. 712.

*Psychiatric Aspects of the Treatment of Cryptorchidism.* E. Daviddoff. 724.


Intradural Spinal Lipomas. G. Wilson, H. Battle, and J. S. Dean. 745.

On Epilepsy. O. Marburg. 754.

*Organization of Psychoanalytic Procedure.*—Discussion of the advantages of psychiatric treatment by analysed physicians and nurses. (W. M. H.)

**JOURNAL OF NEUROPHYSIOLOGY**

**Vol. 3.**

Extrapyramidal Function. F. A. Mettler. 141.


2 B

*Effect of Cortical Lesions on Affective Pupillary Reactions.* B. Ury and E. Oldberg. 201.

**Vol. 91.**

Studies in Delayed Awakening in Insulin Shock Therapy (Sakel) : (ii) Blood Pressure Observations and Their Possible Interpretation. G. W. Robinson and G. W. Robinson, Jnr. 625

Beri Beric Neuromyeloses.—The degenerative lesions of beri-beri involve central nerve cells and tracts of the cord as well as the peripheral nerves. In dogs on a B1 deficient diet neuromyelopathy is found in all layers of the frontal cortex. (W. M. H.)

**Vol. 92.**

Multiple Neuritis with Macrocytic Anemia in an Alcoholic Addict. L. F. Barker. 1.

The Question of the Existence of a Separate Sleep Center in the Brain. C. D. Camp. 3.


**Vol. 93.**

The Phenomenon of Body Rotation in Frontal Lobe Lesions. J. Gestmann. 36.

Transvestism and other Cross-Sex Manifestations. N. S. Yawger. 41.

Delayed Post Traumatic Hemorrhage with Aphasia. R. F. Slaughter and G. Riley. 49.

Studies on the Genetic Determination of Homosexuality. T. Lang. 55.

Homosexuality and Lesbianism Treated with Metrazol. N. M. Owensby. 65.

**Vol. 92.**

Extrapyramidal Function. F. A. Mettler. 141.


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The Differentiation of Neuroses and Psychoses, with Special Reference to States of Depression and Anxiety. C. H. Rogerston. 632.

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**Vol. 92.**

Extrapyramidal Function. F. A. Mettler. 141.


CURRENT JOURNALS

*Postural Reflexes and Grasp Phenomena in Infants. B. L. Pacella and S. E. Barrera. 213.


Micro-Electrodes and Superior Cervical Ganglion.—Micro-electrodes in the superior cervical ganglion of the cat or rabbit show on preganglionic stimulation axon-like spikes. Their brief duration and sharp localization and all-or-none character suggest they come from single cells. Latency varies considerably. Frequency of response may be independent of the stimulus. The spike is followed by one negative and two positive after potentials, the last coinciding with the slow after potential of the ganglionic record. (W. M. H.)

Pupillary Reactions in Cortical Lesions.—Ablation of the sensory or sensorimotor cortex does not raise the threshold to pain reaction, the indicator being reflex dilation of the pupil caused by inhibition of the Edinger Westphal nucleus. Massive cortical lesions lower the threshold. Cortical areas which inhibit extrapyramidal movements produce dilation of the sympathetic nucleus of the pupil. A cortical control by inhibition is indicated. (W. M. H.)

Postural Reflexes in Infants.—A study of 100 healthy, newborn premature and full-term infants showed a definite effect of head postures in relation to trunk upon grasping movements. The latter are not necessarily a part of the tonic neck reflex mechanism. The relationship was shown between the position of the body in space and reflex postures in the limbs or toes. (W. M. H.)

Ether and Nembutal Action on Nervous System.—A full report, too lengthy to summarize, on the action of these drugs on potential responses of the nerve axon, synapse, rhythmically active nerve cell, spinal cord and brain. (W. M. H.)

Motor Performance after Parietal Ablation.—Unilateral removal of the parietal lobe, like ablations of areas 6 or 4, causes disability with relative disuse of the operated extremity and greater involvement of the distal joints. However, accuracy of control is increased by focused visual attention; in emotion control of gross movements may be almost perfect. Tactile deficit following unilateral or partial ablations of either areas 3, 1, 2, 1, 2, or 5 and 7 is shown in the placing and hopping responses. Proprioception is much less affected, but complete bilateral parietal removal abolished the hopping and tactile and proprioceptive placing reactions. Knee-jerks, at first absent, may become hyperactive. Resistance to manipulation remains diminished. Atrophy of muscles was noted in one case. (W. M. H.)

Effects in Spinal Monkeys.—After spinal transection in the monkey autonomic functions return more slowly than somatic reflexes and fail to return to their normal efficiency. Cooling of one limb fails to cause a drop in temperature in the other during the period of shock following transection. (W. M. H.)

Effects of Stimulation of Frontal Lobe.—In both cats and monkeys an area on the orbital surface inhibits respiration and gastric tonus and causes a rise in blood pressure. The latter effect is found especially in monkeys. In cats the inhibition of tonus in gastric muscles is less frequent. (W. M. H.)

JOURNAL OF PHYSIOLOGY

Vol. 98. No. 3. July 1940.


The Effect of Renin on Urine Formation. G. W. Pickering and M. Pinzméter. 314.


*Sympathomimetic Amines and Perfused Blood Vessels.—The vasoconstrictor effect of sympathomimetic amines was determined by perfusion of cat's hind legs. Amines with hydroxyl groups in the ortho- or para- position and with unsubstituted phenyl ring are largely dependent for their effect on the presence of adrenaline. It is suggested they may block local tissue mechanisms for the inactivation of adrenaline. Dihydroxy- and meta-hydroxy-compounds appear to act independently. (W. M. H.)

Inactivation of Adrenaline.—d- and L-adrenaline, epinine, and corbasil, a derivative of ephedrine, given by mouth are
eliminated in the form of conjugated derivatives in the urine. Epinephrine and adrenaline are not eliminated to any extent as protocatechuic acid, as would be expected if inactivation were by the amine oxidase. Oxidation of adrenaline given by mouth (in doses up to 30 mg.) is prevented by adding 1 per cent. acetic acid along with glycine. (W. M. H.)

PHYSIOLOGICAL REVIEWS
Carbon Monoxides Anoxæmia. E. M. Killick. 313.

PSYCHIATRIC QUARTERLY
The Psyche as an Object of Hypochondriacal Pre-occupation. R. C. Hunt. 490.
Preliminary Report on the Results of the Treatment of Schizophrenia by Nitrogen Inhalation. B. Lipetz. 496.
Significant Factors in the Readjustment of Women Patients with Masculine Tendencies. J. H. Wall. 504.
Personalities of Individuals with Total Situs Inversus, P. G. Schube and N. Raskin. 518.
Report on 441 Cases Treated with Metrazol. S. Kwalwasser. 527.
The Effect of Treatment of Intercurrent Somatic Disease on Psychogenic Disorders. F. H. Criden. 547.
Misanthropic Delusions, Attitudes, and Associated Character Anomalies. M. D. Riemer. 556.
Rationale of Specific Therapy for the Pneumococcic Pneumonias. J. G. M. Bullowa. 568.
The Treatment of Epilepsy with Sodium Diphenyl Hydantoinate. V. I. Bonafe and R. E. Nathan. 603.
The Response of Various Types of Epilepsy to Dilantin Therapy. H. K. Johnson. 612.
Psychosomatic Relationship in Ulceromembranous Stomatitis. J. L. Bennett. 632.
EPITOME OF CURRENT JOURNALS

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