ABSTRACTS

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.


From observation of six cases, it is not claimed that the results do more than merely point to the possibility of obtaining some degree of benefit. Decrease in the frequency of the attacks may be expected over varying periods. This may be accompanied by some amelioration in the mental state. The reversal of the leucopenia in two cases affords some evidence that desensitization can be attained in patients who show the hemoclasic crisis. Improvement in symptoms occurs, however, in the absence of this reaction, and there are apparently other factors concerned in bringing about the change. In certain cases the induction of pyrexia is not free from danger.

C. S. R.


Soluble preparations of any barbituric acid derivative produce almost instantaneous effect in man when administered intravenously. The symptoms and signs produced are identical with those observed after oral administration. This method of therapeutic application has been used with success to induce sleep in certain psychoses and in eclampsia. It has been found of especial value in status epilepticus. Five cases of tetanus were relieved and relaxation of the muscles took place, rapidly followed by sleep. Persistent hicough was unbefited. Sodium luminal used intravenously should be injected in doses of 0.4 to 1.2 g at the rate of 50 mg per minute in a 10 per cent. solution: the dose varied in different cases and should be judged by the immediate effect. The author is careful to point out that such a form of therapy entails potential danger for the patient and should only be used in critical cases after other measures have proved valueless.

E. A. C.


This case is of considerable scientific and clinical interest, and is described at great length and in the minutest detail.

The patient was a man of 43, known to be a cryptorchid (one side), who on May 8, 1918, was wounded in the scrotum by a shell splinter. So severe was the injury that eventually a castration was performed, the concealed testis
being also removed. Immediately thereafter sexual desire and power came to an abrupt end, and for eight years subsequently he never had a sexual dream. Full details are given of the physical and psychical eunuchism that gradually established itself, as well as of the definite changes of a neurosympathetic kind that were observed. It is of little interest that after some time attacks apparently of a narcoleptic kind developed.

On December 14, 1928, under anaesthesia, an ape's testis, divided into two, was imbedded under the skin of the abdomen, one piece on either side. One of these was accidentally injured and removed, but the other 'took.' Within about three weeks the patient began to lose some of his fat and his hair began to grow again; his abnormal sweating diminished and he became less sleepy. Two months after the operation he had a sexual dream. For the numerous details of the subsequent course of the case (observed for a period of three months), the original deserves perusal.

The conclusion is as follows: "There can be no doubt that as a result of the transplantation a factor was introduced into the body which acted permanently on the vegetative nervous system in the same way as hitherto extracts from the genital organs have acted temporarily, viz., by reduction of the increased vagotonus that followed the castration."

S. A. K. W.

**Psychopathology.**

**PSYCHOLOGY.**


Biochemistry offers a fruitful means of studying personality, inasmuch as certain chemical determinations appear to be definitely correlated with personality traits.

Preliminary experimentation indicates tendencies for the following relationships to hold:

1. The least excitable individuals tend to have the most acid urine and saliva, while more excitable persons tend toward neutrality or alkalinity of their fluids.

2. The least aggressive subjects appear to excrete the greatest amounts of acid as measured by formol titration and to have the highest alkali reserve of the blood, while more aggressive persons seem to show opposite characteristics.

3. Emotional excitability tends to bear an inverse relationship to the presence of creatinine in the blood and its excretion in the urine.

4. Phosphorus metabolism appears to be bound up with personality in some way, but the details of the relationship are not yet clear.

J. S. P.