recall; associative reproduction of ideas is impaired under alcohol in proportion to the amount taken and is distinctly improved under the 0.2 gm. dose of caffeine, but the effects of recent associations are more powerful than on old ones. Sex differences of response are not very clearly marked, but there are some indications, the chief of which is that men are more susceptible to caffeine and less to alcohol. On the other hand, some clear age differences are shown, in that middle-aged subjects, in contrast to the majority of the subjects who were in the early twenties, improved in intelligence performance on either quantity of alcohol or caffeine. Compared to the 20-year group the very young group, averaging 17½ years, showed a lesser susceptibility to alcohol and a greater susceptibility to caffeine impairment.

Finally, there are certain well-marked individual differences which manifest themselves most in regard to the response made to the smaller quantities of the two drugs. These individual peculiarities of reaction are revealed to be largely constitutional, in virtue of the fact that they prove to be very similar in blood-relatives. In so far as they correlate with the psychological 'make-up' of individuals they appear to be connected with the particular 'temper' of the conative impulses and to a lesser extent with temperament and character.

C. S. R.

NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.


A plea to regard the neurosis from every point of view, recognizing how the lower centres of the medulla and diencephalon influence the cortex, and the cortex influences the lower centres. Childish experiences are revived by an immediate adult situation and the total picture of behaviour cannot be analysed except by taking all such factors into consideration. In this way we get a dynamic and not a static conception of the neurotic, and a positive idea of his behaviour rather than a negative idea of how he fails to reach normality.

R. G. G.


The term 'traumatic neurosis' should be limited to cases exhibiting primitive instinctive emotional reactions to injury. These reactions may be considered as being the response of even a normal personality to fear and pain and the other acute stressful features associated with the accident. Thus the ego is overwhelmed and emotional symptoms occur. The term 'traumatic hysteria' should be limited to those compromise-conversion reactions of maladjusted individuals with physical disorders following injury. The 'post-concussion' neuroses are considered as a traumatic encephalopathy. A head trauma may,
by increasing the permeability of the cerebral vessels to the spirochaete and the
tuetic virus, cause a latent syphilis to become active and cerebrally localized.
Psychoses exclusively the result of cranio-cerebral injury are quite rare. The
concept 'traumatic insanity' is a definite clinical entity but is very infrequently
seen even with severe head injuries. Trauma, however, even when not directly
involving the head, may precipitate a depressive or manic attack in one possessed
of the manic-depressive constitution. Trauma alone cannot cause dementia
præcox. When it plays a part it acts simply as one of the contributing emotional
factors and its influence on the development of the psychosis is fleeting. It
may give a temporary emotional colouring to the picture and may supply
material ready to hand for delusional elaboration.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOSES.

[28] The pathological wandering of persecuted individuals (Note sur les voy-
ages pathologiques des persecutés).—H. HOVEN. Jour. de Neurol.
et de Psychiat., 1930, xxx, 177.

Individus afflicted with chronic persecutory delusions may react in one of
two ways; they may defend themselves by active measures such as crying,
complaining, accusations, blows, homicidal attacks. Alternatively they may
react passively by seeking refuge in flight. The author details six personal
cases of vagabondage associated with chronic persecutory psychoses. The
flights were not in the nature of impulsive acts but were deliberate efforts at
escape. A brief account is given of previous descriptions of this symptom,
including Foville’s ‘aliénés migrateurs’ and the ‘maladie du juif errant’ as
recorded by Meige. In some instances the journey is undertaken by the
psychotic individual under the influence of an imperative hallucination, with
the object of fulfilling a mission or a duty. Reference is made to the mystical
vagabondage and dromomania as exemplified by the case of Régis. Differen-
tiation has to be made from fugues, which are impulsive acts accompanied by
automatism and defects of consciousness, and which may occur in a variety of
mental disorders.

M. C.

[29] The relative importance of hereditary factors in constitutional and
organic psychoses.—C. B. FARR, L. A. SCHWARTZ and L. H. SMITH.

A statistical study of family histories in 200 cases of paresis and manic-
depressive psychoses. It was found that the psychopathic taint is quite as
great in the paresis group as in the manic-depressive group. This suggests that
the incidence of the spirochaete determined the nature of the breakdown rather
than the breakdown itself.

R. G. G.