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
precox. 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 persecuteurs).—H. HOVEN. Jour. de Neurol.
et de Psychiat., 1930, xxx, 177.

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dividuals 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. Differentia-
tion 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.
ABSTRACTS


This study supports the view that criminality is neither a sudden nor sporadic phenomenon, nor yet an expression of inborn traits. A case of exhibitionism is cited which quite clearly demonstrates the influence of environmental factors in shaping man's antisocial reactions. It is shown that the exhibitionism in this case is really a compulsion neurosis. The study is elaborate but can hardly be conclusive for more than the cases under discussion.

R. G. G.


The number of new admissions to New York State Mental Hospitals increased from 1922 to 1925, but decreased slightly from 1925 to 1926. In spite of this latter decrease, however, the number in 1926 exceeds that of 1922. The rate of new admissions per 100,000 of general population shows a slight decrease during these years. The nine States that were 'wet' before prohibition contributed more than 90 per cent. of all cases of alcoholic insanity in 1922, 1925, and 1926. The percentage of alcoholic cases among all new admissions to these hospitals for the years 1922, 1925, and 1926 shows a steady increase. The percentage of alcoholic cases among all new admissions and readmissions in 1926 was less than one-half that of 1910, but slightly greater than that of 1922 or of 1925.

The following characteristics are noted among the cases of alcoholic insanity in the hospitals of 19 States: Alcoholic insanity is primarily a disorder of advanced middle-age, approximately 75 per cent. of the cases entering between the ages of 30 and 55. The degree of illiteracy among alcoholic patients is somewhat higher than among the general population of the entire United States. More than 80 per cent. of alcoholic cases come from an urban, in contrast to a rural, environment. Over 60 per cent. have been in marginal circumstances previous to commitment, and approximately 25 per cent. have been in dependent circumstances. With respect to marital condition, more than one-half of the patients are married and more than one-third single. The number of single males greatly exceeds the single females, while the number of married and widowed females exceeds the number of males so classified.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY.


This investigation was carried out on 336 cases of mental disorder of various types. It shows that in the dull, quiet group of dementia praecox cases the serum cholesterol is high, surpassing the normal limit in the majority of cases.