
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.

[31] Recent statistics of alcoholic mental disease.—Horatio Pollock and Frederick W. Brown. Mental Hygiene, 1929, xiii, 591.

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.
PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

It is also raised in most cases of manic-depressive insanity and involutional melancholia, and still more so in these cases during a remission. In general paralysis it is variable, but much more frequently above than below the normal, and there is no constant change as the result of treatment. It is high in the majority of cases of psychosis associated with gross organic disease, in alcoholic mental disorders, and in most cases of senile psychosis. It is usually within normal limits in imbeciles, except when complicated by epilepsy. A high serum cholesterol value is to be expected in all types of mental disease, but not in imbecility.

The variations which occur with changes in the mental state are equally definite. Patients in a confused condition, or with excessive emotional reaction, have a lower serum cholesterol content than others in the same psychiatric group, unless the confusion is of very long duration, as in those epileptics who are always confused, when there is little difference. This diminished cholesterol is observed in the confusion or mood changes of dementia praecox, manic-depressive insanity, involutional melancholia and alcoholic psychoses, in the occasional confusion of epileptics, and frequently in association with the epileptic fit.

C. S. R.


From consideration of the brain and liver weights of 157 epileptics in a series of 1,932 autopsies, it is definitely shown that in neither emaciated nor non-emaciated epileptics of either under or over 50 years does the degree of atrophy of liver and brain differ from that of the group of psychoses in general. The brain-liver weight ratio deviates less from the normal than in other psychoses. In the psychoses in general in the non-emaciated of less than 50 years of age there is a well-marked decrease in the weights of both the liver and brain. The decrease in weight in the two organs runs parallel, so that the brain-liver weight ratio in this group remains at the normal, viz. 87.

C. S. R.


It is concluded that persons in apparently good health may pass considerable quantities of phenol, p-hydroxyphenylacetic acid, indican and indolacetic acid. These quantities are, however, greatly exceeded in intestinal obstruction and cancer of the liver. They were also exceeded in three out of the six psychotics studied from this point of view.

C. S. R.

The specific dynamic action of proteins which increase the consumption of oxygen and the basal metabolic rate were determined in a mixed group of mental cases. Some of the schizophrenics showed a diminution of the S.D.A. If this observation is confirmed it would indicate that the administration of anterior pituitary or X-ray treatment to stimulate metabolism might be worth while in early schizophrenia.

R. G. G.


An attempt to correlate basal metabolic processes with certain emotional states and their common psychomotor accompaniments. Basal metabolic processes are correlated with emotional states regardless of the clinical type of personality disorder. Elated, overactive, and overtalkative states are accompanied by acceleration of basal metabolism. Depressed, underactive and undertalkative states are accompanied by retardation of basal metabolism. Apprehensive, tense, and agitated states usually imply an acceleration of basal metabolism, but this may be counteracted in some cases in which the feeling of depression is intense. Apathetic states are accompanied by a retardation in basal metabolism, which is not however as great as that associated with feelings of depression.

It is probable that some of the so-called normal variations in the metabolic rate are due to the different emotional states presented by the tested individual.

The basal metabolic rate may be altered to a pathological degree with no other apparent factor than an unusually intense emotional state, and therefore the interpretation of the rate in any given case, regardless of the type of illness, requires the consideration of the prevailing emotional state of the individual tested.

R. G. G.


Previously the writer has demonstrated that the libido, if traumatized, liberates the components of the perversions, homosexuality, and narcissism; and that heterosexuality is supplanted. There must be some embryological defect in the development of the libido that makes certain individuals suscept-
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ible to traumatic attacks, and we must concede heredity as an etiological factor in schizophrenia. Here the author demonstrates two cases in which he uncovered an incestuous root of the libido, which in its effort to gratify itself tried to fixate on homosexuality, and that these instinctive impulses were restrained by the super-ego, and the patients sought refuge in symptoms. The libido lives solely for the gratification of its desire, and the components that are unconscious are instinctive. In both these cases the libido was traumatized; in case 1, after an ordinary social contact, it was injured in its attempt to fixate on an individual of the opposite sex. In the traumatization that occurred the components of incest, perversions, homosexuality and narcissism were liberated, and these instinctive impulses not being sanctioned by the super-ego, the patient sought refuge in compulsions and fantasies. In case 2, the libido was traumatized in a love affair, liberating incest and homosexuality, which was not sanctioned by the super-ego; the patient developed a delusion that the girl with whom he was in love was a man. The libido in its attempt to fixate on heterosexuality, which is conscious and is sanctioned by the super-ego, develops a conflict with the instinctive impulses which are unconscious. As a result of these repressed forces and conscious forces a compromise takes place and symptoms are formed. The polar tension between these bipolar impulses, viz., the sexuality and the super-ego, makes the psyche of the schizophrenic labile. Psychoanalysts have shown that the homosexuality can be traced to a strong attachment to the mother. Bleuler was inclined to seek the essential factor in the congenital direction of the impulse; it is on the other hand very clear that in cases of fluctuating sexual direction accident may have a deciding influence. Bleuler concludes that for the present the only hypothesis that can be formulated with any probability is that uranism is a biological manifestation. If it is proved that 2 per cent. of the population are burdened by it, then it may be caused by a heredity mechanism similar to the one that to 100 women 106 men are born. This may also be reconciled with the remarkable circumstance that homosexuality does not die out, despite the fact that it hinders procreation to a high degree.

C. S. R.

Prognosis and Treatment.

[38] Remarks on psychoanalytic therapy.—Martin W. Peck. Mental Hygiene, 1930, xiv, 67.

In the light of the psychoanalytic conception of the problem of neurosis, its special method of therapy becomes a systematic procedure established to accomplish certain definite ends: (1) to dislodge and recondition certain inadequate and handicapping features of the unconscious mental life; (2) to reduce the deep-lying fear and guilt that have hampered and distorted