of post-inflammatory nerve lesions in cases of digestive disorders suggest the advisability of careful scrutiny of dyspeptic patients for evidence of past infections (such as tuberculosis) which might involve important nervous pathways in scars or adhesions. The theory of autonomic imbalance occupies a prominent place in discussions of the etiology of such digestive disorders as peptic ulcer, cardiospasm, intussusception, and congenital pyloric stenosis.

In some digestive conditions (intestinal tuberculosis, some cases of peritonitis) it is the secondary nerve changes and not the primary lesion which produce the characteristic symptomatology.

The concept of solar syndromes, with or without actual lesions in the nerve plexuses, is advanced by some writers to explain the painful phenomena in a rather diverse group of abdominal conditions.

Lesions of the spinal cord may produce visceral effects either directly by involving the preganglionic fibres at their point of origin or else indirectly by affecting the suprasegmental neurones connecting with these preganglionic fibres. The general result of destroying the superior connections is a release of the lower neurone reflexes.

Neural ileus is an important condition often leading to useless surgical exploration. This form of ileus may be due to lesions either in the segmental or suprasegmental arcs or to psychoses with marked depression. It is a common symptom of transverse myelitis.

Important centres regulating the functions of the entire involuntary nervous system are now known to be located in the diencephalon. Lesions in this region occur frequently in epidemic encephalitis, dementia paralytica and dementia precox. Psychical disorders of digestion are mediated through the emotions and through ideas causing conditioned reflexes. Conditioned reflexes, therefore, furnish a basis for the development of digestive habits, peculiarities, and perversions. The psychoneuroses are not uncommonly encountered by gastro-enterologists because the digestive symptoms are prominent and varied. In melancholia, constipation is a particularly constant and stubborn manifestation.

R. G. G.

PSYCHOSES.

[70] A brief résumé of the types of insanity commonly met with in India, with a full description of the "Indian Hemp insanity" peculiar to the country.—Jal Edulji Dhunjibhoy. Jour. of Ment. Sci., 1930, lxxvi, 254.

According to the last census, the proportion of insane to general public in India is 28 or 29 per 100,000, but there is no reliable information as to the number of uncertified cases. Manic-depressive psychosis contributes largely
to the population of mental hospitals. Dementia praecox takes the next place in number and the more highly educated seem to be most prone to this form of psychosis. The toxic psychoses are next in order of frequency. In this group hemp drug heads the list and alcohol is second. Acute confusional insanity is also not uncommon in India and in a good many cases the principal etiological factors are starvation and physical exhaustion. The psychoses associated with infections, pregnancy and the puerperium are also common. Mental defectives take the fourth place. General paralysis is extremely rare in India though syphilis is very common. The writer has not yet seen such a case in an Indian who has not been abroad. Various theories have been propounded for this infrequency of general paralysis in India, but none so far is convincing. Indian hemp intoxication varies in degree. Some become drowsy or semicomatose, rapidly passing into a dreamy state, with a rapid flow of ideas, often of a sexual nature, ending in a deep sleep. Others go through a phase of increased psychomotor activity before passing into the dreamy state. Large doses produce excitement, delusions, hallucinations, rapid flow of ideas, a high state of ecstasy, increased psychomotor activity, with a tendency to wilful damage and violence, to be followed by deep sleep and forgetfulness of all but the initial symptoms. Acute mania, chronic mania, and dementia, are the three types of hemp insanity most commonly met with. A peculiar eye condition is almost pathognomonic of it; there is a marked conjunctival congestion seen in the horizontal vessels of both eyes. The prognosis is hopeful. In acute cases nearly 90 per cent. and in chronic cases 40 per cent. recover. Stoppage of the drug produces no abstinence symptoms. Excessive or prolonged use of hemp drugs degrades the mind and character of the consumer and predisposes him to commit crime.

C. S. R.

[71] Mental disorders from the use of hashish (Les troubles psychiques dus à l'emploi du haschisch)—FAHREDDIN KERIM. L'Hygiène mentale, 1930, xxv, 93.

As in alcohol, the influence of hashish varies in different personalities. Its principal effect is an enfeeblement of the organism. There is produced a general lassitude; movement is slow; will-power is much limited; and the association of ideas lessened or severely disturbed. The patient soon ceases to interest himself in his human environment, his imagination becomes exalted and completely self-absorbed, and he revels in all sorts of dreams. Later, ideas of time and place are lost, speech is stammering, movements are made without any confidence, and helplessness is prominent. Others present a different picture, becoming delirious with impulsive violence and hallucinations. Crimes may be committed while in this state. Such a condition may be observed in those who have commenced to take the drug in doses of 20 to 30 centigrammes. In others
these manifestations do not appear until the dose taken is 3 grammes. Certain hashishists with a minimum of intoxication by the drug imagine that they have reached the acme of their desires, believe that they are great and rich and tell of the joys they have experienced in their hashish dreams. There are those, too, who on the contrary fall into a profound apathy. They are possessed by fear and ideas of persecution torment them. Physically, the expression is dull, there is a general anaemia and perhaps a yellowish complexion. There is an exaggeration of the tendon reflexes, dyspnœa, and increased cardiac movements. The main mental disorders which are met with in inveterate hashish takers are cerebral excitement, subacute melancholia, dementia præcox, a schizoid state, an auditory hallucinated delirium, and mental confusion.

C. S. R.


A case is here recorded and it is noted that the significance of such striking similarities in structure as these twins presented associated with equally striking similarities in symptoms of a psychosis is of interest and importance. It is very strong evidence that the cause of this type of psychosis and probably of all psychoses is an inherent defect in the germ-plasma, a germinal inheritance that makes the development of a psychosis possible. There is no case on record so far as the writer knows of dementia præcox in one only of identical twins. Mongolism, it is stated, has not been observed in one of identical twins. Epilepsy has not been reported in one identical twin.

C. S. R.


The authors tabulate their findings in accordance with a schedule of familial psychopathic factors and find that manic-depressive cases show considerably more family taint than the involution cases.

R. G. G.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY.


The Wassermann, Kahn, and Hinton reactions were applied to 1,314 feebleminded patients and many retests were done. The Hinton was found to be