Abstracts.

Neurology.

NEURO-ANATOMY AND NEUROPHYSIOLOGY.


This is a very fine piece of anatomical work which does not lend itself to convenient summarisation and should be read in the original. It is based on the study of five cases and is accompanied by drawings and charts which fully explain the findings that are given.

J. V.

[76] On the projection of the macula on the area striata in man (Über die Projektion der Makula auf die Area striata des Menschen).—B. BROUWER. *Jour. f. Psychol. u. Neurol.*, 1930, xl, 147.

A case of thrombotic softening in the left occipital region is here studied. The lesion had caused for a period of years a right homonymous hemianopia with exclusion of central vision. The region damaged proved to be small and to be confined to the frontal part of the calcarine fissure. A retrograde degeneration was readily traced forwards to the external geniculate body, confirming views of the author based on experiments in animals. In the caudal half of the calcarine area lies the macular projection system; peripheral segments of the retina are represented more frontally. Whether the macular part extends further forwards could not be determined by this case.

S. A. K. W.

[77] The principal sinistral types.—C. QUINAN. *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1930, xxiv, 47.

Of 1,000 university students examined with reference to handedness and eyedness, 704 were right-handed and right-eyed; 185 were right-handed and left-eyed; 40 were left-handed and left-eyed; 36 were left-handed and right-
eyed; 35 are classified as ambi-laterals and other types. Therefore, 26·1 per cent of these young men are sinistrals.

Nearly the same percentage of sinistrals was found in a study of 317 Chinese school children.

There seems to be a marked tendency for sinistrals to concentrate in certain of the aesthetic vocations.

On the basis of data collected from 815 university students, it can be stated that sinistrals are definitely more musical in their tastes than dextrals.

In a survey of 693 neuropsychiatric patients, it was found that in dementia praecox and in most other forms of mental disease the percentage of sinistrals was 30·4, while in a mixed group of persons with constitutional psychopathic states the average value was 54·1 per cent.

It is suggested that sinistrals, especially those of the RL type, are apt to show signs of constitutional instability.

R. M. S.

NEUROPATHOLOGY.


After a succinct description of the clinical features of several cases the writer notes that in two of these, acute in character, the changes in the liver were comparatively slight; in one which progressed for 14 years they were much more pronounced. He supposes that some toxic agent affects equally the hepatic parenchyma and the neuroglial network of the neostriatum; both classes of cell absorb the toxin, degenerate, and disappear.

S. A. K. W.

[79] The tissue, cytological and vascular alterations of the central nervous system in the pathogenesis of cerebral hæmorrhage (Le alterazioni tissuali, citologiche e vascolari del sistema nervoso centrale nella patogenesi dell' emorragia cerebrale).—G. DADDI. Riv. di pat. nerv. e ment., 1928, xxxiv, 534.

In the cortices of subjects of cerebral hæmorrhage of all ages areas of alternating rarefaction and density occur round the vessels. This is specially noticeable in the white matter below the cortex.

In older people these are diffuse areas of chronic change which are independent of the hæmorrhage, but which may complicate the histological picture of the lesion. Astrocyte glial cells are the commonest feature in the lesions. The latter are of two kinds, one the usual accompaniment of chronic changes