cent. of the girls had been changed from left-handed writers. When intelligence and mean achievement of the sinistrals and dextrals were compared, it was found that the dextrals were slightly superior in every respect. When the two groups had been equated in intelligence the relative superiority of the dextrals in achievement remained approximately the same. When handedness was correlated with intelligence, achievement, and chronological age, a superiority of the dextrals was shown to be consistent throughout, although the coefficients were very low. Dextral girls were slightly superior to sinistral girls in every respect.

C. S. R.


The authors observed the following as a result of their experiments.

(1) Some contents in the recent experiences of subjects that were left out of their descriptions were subsequently shown to recur in their dreams.

(2) These contents seemed to have a definite relationship to experiences in the earlier life of the person.

(3) Both of these experiences were found to be definitely related to those problems in the subjects' lives that, as far as could be judged, formed the central feature of the disease-process.

The authors state that there was a lack of success in a large proportion of their cases, and the above results were based upon 16 cases reported individually. They believe that in the field of practical psychology a new method of approach is offered for the investigation of retention of memory.

G. de M. R.

PSYCHOSES.


This is a long survey of the history of the syndrome from the earliest times compiled with all Dr. Jelliffe's accustomed erudition. Such a survey cannot be abstracted, but it can be recommended to those who wish information on the changes in view which have evolved throughout the history of medicine in respect of this still ill-defined condition.

R. G. G.
Ratios of distribution of bromide, calcium, sugar and chlorides.—
D. ROTHSCHILD and W. MALAMUD. Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat., 1931, xxvi, 829.

In 100 cases of manic-depressive psychosis, 34 per cent. showed an increased passage of bromide into the cerebrospinal fluid. The bromide ratio was normal in 53 per cent. In 28 cases of involutional melancholia 35 per cent. showed low ratios of bromide. The ratios tended to move towards normal as the psychosis subsided. The ratio of distribution of calcium was abnormal in 33 3 per cent. of 24 cases. The ratio of distribution of chloride was normal in manic-depressive psychosis. There was a tendency for the cases with low ratios of bromide to show a slightly greater passage of sugar into the spinal fluid than normal cases. The ratio of distribution of bromide is of value in the differential diagnosis between manic-depressive psychosis and schizophrenia.

Calcium in the blood and the urine in dementia præcox (Il calcio del sangue e delle urine nei dementi precoci).—S. GULLOTTA. Riv. di pat. nerv. e ment., 1930, xxxvi, 572.

Calcium is increased in the chronically agitated cases, but is lowered in the catatonic, stuporose, or rigid cases. The elimination of calcium by the urine follows the same course as the calcium in the blood. Experimentally in man a lowering of the calcium and potassium content in the blood can be induced during the cataleptic state caused by bulbocapnine. Pharmacological experiments resulting in catatonic stupor or rigidity by the action of amines on the basal ganglia produce a lowering of calcium content, but an increase of potassium content, while with catalepsy due to bulbocapnine there is a diminution of both. With regard to the increase in the agitated patients this is analogous to the increase produced by B. tetrahydronaphthylamine. Finally the increase of calcium in recent schizophrenia suggests that this is an expression of hepatic insufficiency.


One-half to one grain of hyoscine was given by the mouth to 20 cases of dementia præcox and to ten controls. The author demonstrated after five to seven hours aromatic substances of a phenol base with Millon’s reaction in
the urine and specially in the blood in the cases of dementia praecox. A positive reaction was never found in the controls. He concludes that in the intestine of cases of dementia praecox there exists a special flora which forms abnormal substances of a phenol base, which are not found when hyoscine is introduced into healthy people. There exist lesions of the gastrointestinal hepatic barrier which permit the absorption and passage into the blood of these phenol substances formed from hyoscine, which consequently can be demonstrated in the blood and urine. These results seem to demonstrate an alteration in the antitoxic function of the liver, and confirm the view of Buscaino, who believes that a gastrointestinal factor is fundamental in syndromes of amentia and schizophrenia.

R. G. G.

[124] The rigid personality.—W. MUNCHIE. Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat., 1931, xxvi, 359.

This paper deals with rigid personality as a factor in psychoses. It is compounded of many factors such as obstinacy, aggressiveness, pride, sensitiveness, a rigid code of personal ethics, an inability to make concessions. Five cases in which such a personality existed were treated in detail, and the author has separated the features of the psychotic process from those attributable to the personality. The effect of the above traits is pointed out. The manifestations of trouble in the rigid personality are anger, aversion, stubbornness, paranoid delusional systems and 'rut formations.' The treatment consists in general of socializing the patient and introducing new points of view for his consideration. The results are usually meagre, but there may be help by an unusual degree of insight or of rapport, or by a real desire to get well.

G. de M. R.

[125] Hereditary factors in manic-depressive psychoses; a comparison of institutional and extramural cases.—H. A. PASKIND. Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat., 1930, xxiv, 747.

In a comparison of the author's figures from 683 cases with those of other writers, the conclusion is reached that a neuropathy occurs in the parents of 38 per cent. of the sane, of 50-57 per cent. of general psychotics and of 65-53-67-9 per cent. of the manic-depressive psychotics. In grandparents, uncles and aunts the respective figures are 29 per cent., 12-16 per cent. and 6-2-14-76 per cent. In siblings only the percentages are 5 per cent., 7-9 per cent. and 4-76-9-1 per cent. respectively. Further analyses are given
showing the types of neuropathic taints in the parents of the sane, the psychotics in general and the manic-depressive cases, and also of the types amongst relatives of these groups.

The results of this investigation show that the cases of manic-depressive psychosis in institutions show the same hereditary taints as do the milder forms outside institutions, and lend support to the opinion that the very mild and brief cases are in nature identical with the severe institutional cases.

G. de M. R.


Röntgenological observation of gastrointestinal functions were taken in 96 cases of manic-depressive psychosis with the following conclusions. Definite changes in visceral function occur in this psychosis. In the manic phase the position of the viscera is from one to two inches higher than in the depressive phases. Hypomanic patients present a marked increase in visceral tension and motility. In manic patients visceral function has already passed the limit of acceleration and begins to be retarded. Depressed cases present a marked decrease in visceral tension and motility. Gastrointestinal hypotonicity and hypomotility are most exaggerated in those depressed patients who are described as being retarded, hypochondriacal, confused or perplexed. The average time required for a hypomanic patient to evacuate a bariumized meal is 47 hours. The average time required for a depressed patient to evacuate such a meal cannot be determined, since 68 per cent. of these patients retain barium or food residue over a period longer than five days. Without medical aid some depressed patients retain food residue for a period longer than two weeks.

C. S. R.


Here is reported the case of a man who developed erythæmia at 43, and a severe depression at 45 lasting until death at 47. Although proof is lacking, it seemed possible to the writer that the erythæmia was one of the factors for the appearance of the psychosis.

C. S. R.
ABSTRACTS


Occurrence of definite psychosis associated with Parkinsonism is sufficiently rare to merit records being made of cases that are observed. All of the three described showed hallucinatory symptoms, two both auditory and visual, and one visual only. The psychosis seems to be due to cortical encephalitis accompanying the lesions in the basal ganglia.

R. G. G.


It is not known whether women of hypothetically sound constitution develop psychotic or neurotic reactions at the menopause. Certainly the majority of women never do. Of those presenting notable mental abnormalities the great majority exhibit pre-climacteric psychotic potential. The biological situation of the menopause includes endocrine, vasomotor and metabolic changes. The precise relationship of these changes, however, to concurrent mental phenomena is unknown. In some cases the age factor is obvious; in the majority it is inconspicuous. The climacteric is a critical time not only biologically, but often in the life-relationships of the individual; so much so that not infrequently the psychosis is to be regarded as largely reactive to such external circumstances. An old tradition unduly exaggerates the morbid potential of the climacteric. The transition period has been blamed for much nervous and mental illness that it has not caused or in which it is only a contributing factor. While the menopausal psychoses as a unitary classification have disappeared from text-books, the dread of them remains, to counteract which the profession must take the lead in promoting a more wholesome mental-hygiene outlook upon what is, after all, among women a universal phenomenon.

C. S. R.


Ten children, six boys and four girls, under the age of 16 were studied. It was impossible to divide the material into any homogeneous groups. In two cases, kinetic features stood out most prominently with motor disturbances which began in early infancy. In the other eight the mood disturbances were the essential elements of the clinical picture. One-half of the children showed definite physical anomalies and malformations differentiating them.
from other children. The immediate precipitating factors in the psychoses were usually quite trivial. The constitution of the child seemed to be the most important single factor in the etiology of the breakdowns. The occurrence of an affective disorder in childhood carries with it a serious prognosis.

C. S. R.


The magical character of the thought of paranoia is familiar, and in the opinion of the author may be an important factor in the development of homosexuality and frigidity or impotence.

The paranoiac delusion may be partly grounded in primitive blood-thirst and excessive desires for vengeance. Magical fulfilment of blood-thirst activates in paranoia a weakening of the mechanism of projection by generating sense of guilt, and becomes an essential curative agent. The disintegration of the delusion cannot be reached, however, by actual, but only by magical fulfilment. Apparently inexplicable remissions in other forms of psychosis may be due to 'magical' fulfilments of primitive cravings, which take place, however, without being observed.

R. G. G.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY.


The blood calcium in organic psychosis ranges between 8·1 and 10·9 mgm. per cent. Figures below the normal level have been found in eight out of 42 cases of organic psychosis. In schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis and mental deficiency it was found to be within normal limits. The cerebrospinal calcium showed a slight deviation below the normal in four out of 40 cases of schizophrenia and a moderate rise in three out of 42 cases of organic psychosis. In manic-depressive psychosis (ten cases) and mental deficiency (21 cases) only normal figures were found. Slightly increased ratios of fluid calcium with blood calcium were elicited in five out of 42 cases of organic psychosis. In the schizophrenic group ratios below normal were observed in four out of 40 cases. In manic-depressive psychosis and mental deficiency the ratios are within normal limits. The contents of calcium in blood and cerebrospinal fluid and the distribution ratios of calcium can