SENSORIMOTOR NEUROLOGY


INJURY to both occipital lobes of the brain was a result of a gunshot lesion affecting the posterior part of the skull. As in other cases seen during the war a distinct localization was observed for different qualities of optic disturbance. Blindness for the form of objects was an isolated defect more definitely observed than in any case previously examined. Deficient perception of form and shape was limited to the visual sphere and no disturbance was observed with regard to form and shape in any other region of the brain, e.g. by touching, writing and drawing. Goldstein and Gelb previously described a disturbance for visual form not limited to the visual region in a case of a lesion of the occipital lobe, but according to Kleist’s opinion this resulted from a brain lesion outside the visual sphere.

M.


The orbital plates of the frontal bones, the lesser wings of the sphenoid, and the restricted motion of the brain within its encasement are indirect contributing causes to brain injuries. Cerebral and subarachnoid hemorrhage, cerebral edema, and disorganization of the Virchow-Robin lymph system contribute to brain destruction and degeneration. Post-traumatic sequelae are due to loss of brain tissue, meningoencephalomyelitis, contraction of scars, collection of fluid in the meninges, and interference with proper cerebrospinal fluid and lymphatic circulation. Significant brain injuries may occur without loss of consciousness. Conduct disorders following such injuries are to be differentiated from psychogenic behaviour disorders.

C. S. R.

Psychopathology

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT


This is a preliminary report on experiments made with 10 schizophrenic patients. Both drugs caused increase in the rate of oxygen consumption
with various other metabolic effects indicative of increased oxidative efficiency. The ortho-cresol proved to be the more potent but showed the property of causing discolouration of the skin and scleræ. The therapeutic results were indeterminate. Aside from discolouration of the integument by the ortho-cresol neither drug, within the limits of dosage used, caused any perceptible harmful effects.

C. S. R.


Of 90 patients who left the Maudsley Hospital against advice, 17 could not be traced, 25 were in mental hospitals, 24 recovered, 16 were at home no better, seven committed suicide, and one died at home. Obviously the standards of behaviour determine the relatives in taking patients home, and for this reason the largest number taken home whilst still ill were suffering from depressive states, where behaviour likely to lead to conflict with the environment was not marked. In view of the high proportion of suicides it would seem necessary to urge relatives of patients suffering from severe depressive states to send them to suitable hospitals. Most of the depressives who remained at home, although ill, were of the involutional type, and only two who might reasonably be expected to recover remained ill in difficult home situations. The relatives seemed to take a more serious view of states with excitement; only four manics and three toxic confusional patients were taken home whilst excited; no unrecovered schizophrenic patients remained at home.

C. S. R.