anxiety, a feeling of insecurity and apprehension. The peculiar content in prison psychoses seems to suggest that hallucinations are the outcome of a previous psychological experience. The feeling tone in such a psychotic individual seems to be the conditioning factor in regard to auditory hallucinations.

C. S. R.


The B. coli agglutination test with 76 sera of psychotics did not show, either in the frequency or in the intensity of positive reactions, any different behaviour from that observed in normal persons. The occurrence of normal agglutinins in schizophrenics was found to be nearly twice as frequent as in other psychotics. The observations did not make probable a causative connexion between B. coli infections and mental disease.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY


The phenomenon of apparent (i.e. consciously) absent intention exists in acts which gratify deeper hidden purposes. In many of these accidents the damage is inflicted not upon someone else but upon one’s own self. The body then suffers damage as a result of circumstances which appear to be entirely fortuitous but which in certain illuminating circumstances can be shown to fulfil so specifically the unconscious tendencies of the victim that we are compelled to believe either that they represent the ‘capitalization’ of some opportunity for self-destruction by the death instinct or else were in some obscure way brought about for this very purpose. The significant and differential thing about purposive accidents is that the ego refuses to accept the responsibility for the self-destruction. Illustrations are given of how a man plans a trap for another man to protect his home property, forgets that he has done so, returns after an interval, goes into the place he has so carefully protected and is himself killed or wounded. Psychoanalytic studies indicate that the unknown marauder represents a particular person in the unconscious phantasies of the murderer-victim. Automobile accidents often occur in circumstances which are suspiciously indicative of at least unconscious intent. In those cases where serious accidents take place because the driver has fallen asleep, they are probably sometimes determined by unconscious
suicidal impulses. There is also a similarity between the fatal accidents and those in which only a part of the body is destroyed. We may be able to see precisely how the accident serves to punish the individual for guilty acts or wishes. In those cases which are not fatal, however, this punishment serves not only as the price of atonement but as a permission for further indulgences in the same guilty acts or phantasies. The guilty act stimulates the conscience to demand of the ego a price. In some instances this price is a (self-inflicted) death penalty. In other instances, however, it seems to be less severe. One may note the principle of periodic payment for the continued indulgence in forbidden erotic or aggressive tendencies in many neurotic patients, and melancholia is often forestalled or deferred by various obsessive and compulsive techniques. There are certain individuals who seem to fall victim to successive disasters with an uncanny regularity.

C. S. R.


Ninety-seven boys with pituitary dysfunction in a State Home were studied and are reported from the standpoint of diagnosis, mental level, school achievement, behaviour, personality, and treatment. Those with such dysfunction were found to be brighter than the control group but the school attendance and achievement were the same in both. They were found, too, to be unstable, immature and suggestible. More personality deviations were found than in the controls. Within the Institution the 'pituitary' boys were found to be above average in school progress but below in conduct and adjustment. The offences causing commitment to the Home consisted essentially of stealing and truancy. Positive correlations were found between height and mental level. Five boys with hypopituitary dysfunction were treated with growth hormone with subsequent increase in height and improvement in secondary sexual development.

C. S. R.


The cases of 22 children showing mental changes following head injury are reported. The conditions are classified and designated as posttraumatic acute psychosis, chronic behaviour disorder, epilepsy with secondary deterioration, and defect conditions and secondary intellectual deterioration. The acute psychosis was observed in six children. The onset occurred immediately after the patient recovered consciousness and the symptomatology consisted of a demonstration of unrestrained instinctual, emotional and
motor behaviour, associated with an affect of fear and anxiety. Complete recovery occurred in a few weeks. The chronic behaviour disorder was noted in 12 and closely resembled postencephalitic behaviour disorder. The syndrome is characterized by hyperkinetic, uninhibited, asocial behaviour, with an instinctual colouring. Of the nine cases in which X-ray examination of the skull was made, there were five in which fracture occurred in the frontal region and four in which no evidence of fracture was present. Delinquency was present in all cases. The intelligence as measured by the Stanford-Binet test was within the normal range. The general prognosis was poor and many required prolonged treatment in State Hospitals for patients with mental disease. Posttraumatic epilepsy occurred in five cases. The observations indicated that frequently it leads to behaviour disorders and to ultimate intellectual and emotional deterioration such as that which occurs in other forms of epilepsy. Mental deficiency is a rare sequela of head trauma, although a form of secondary intellectual deterioration may appear as a result of a lack of interest and attention.

C. S. R.


A series of 500 routine cases of mental disease were examined. Nasal sinus infection was proved in 7·6 per cent. This percentage compared with a similar one found in a similar series of cases using similar criteria shows only a slight difference. In a control series of 184 mentally normal individuals the incidence of sinus suppuration was found to be not less than 5 per cent. Pioneer workers in this field have claimed a higher incidence. It would appear from the above figures that the incidence of sinus in mental disorder is not greater to any appreciable degree than among the general population. That such sinus disease may seriously affect existing predispositions to disease in the nervous system, just as it may affect such predispositions in any other system, is unquestioned, in view of clinical and post-mortem work carried out.

C. S. R.


Although an exact psychological basis has not been traced for the diagnosis of malingering, sufficient cause may be determined in a particular case so that the medical expert will be able to give this diagnosis without scruple. Malingering by prisoners is often observed not as a result of mental disease,
but as a criminal act committed in order to prevent penalty. The presence of a psychopathic disposition does not preclude the diagnosis of malingering, as supposed by some observers. A 'sham' patient has not to be cured, but in certain circumstances at least has to be punished. The transition from malingering to a state of morbid hysteria is prevented by intensive attention to such a person.

M.


FROM his work the writer concludes that the toxic and Sudanophil granule estimations appear to follow the course of the psychosis, varying directly with the intensity of the disorder. The gradual improvement in the counts observed in recovering cases must be ascribed in part to the general detoxication which is instituted in each patient soon after admission. Though it would be rash to infer from only a few examinations that these estimations have definite and prognostic value, it is suggested that they may prove of considerable assistance.

C. S. R.

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT


Theories as to the physiological action of the drug are by no means clear. Laboratory studies had shown a tendency of the drug to elevate the blood count and to reduce the calcium level. Fourteen patients in all were treated. Two responded well, one of whom relapsed after a period of six weeks. The other continued to adjust on a low level. Laboratory examinations failed to disclose any specific influence on the blood picture except a tendency to lowered cholesterol levels. The results did not warrant the use of this therapy in preference to any of the old armamentarium used in the treatment of depressed psychoses. No deleterious toxic reactions were noted.

C. S. R.


No satisfactory explanation, based on experimental evidence, of the action of haematoporphyrin has yet been evolved. Laboratory tests are of little value in selecting cases for treatment or gauging their progress under treat-