Some interesting observations are given on cases of cerebrospinal syphilis, which had been treated ten years previously by the Swift-Ellis method. Of the original twenty-five cases, several patients could not be traced, seven had died, and nine were living, most of whom were capable of active employment.

The Wassermann reactions of the blood and spinal fluid, which, preceding treatment ten years previously, had been strongly positive, were negative in all nine cases. Cell counts of the spinal fluids, originally ranging from 25 to 327 cells, showed from 0 to 3 cells per cubic millimetre. The colloidal-gold reaction gave a mild response of the luetic type in all the cases examined.

W. G. W.

**Psychopathology.**

**PSYCHOLOGY.**

The problem of the terror dream.—G. H. GREEN. *Psyche*, 1924, v, 129.

An attempt is made to show that Rivers’ belief in the failure of the ‘wish-fulfilment’ theory of dreams causes unnecessary confusion. Having quoted the terror dream of a two-and-a-half years old child in which a big dog jumps up at her, the author points out that the leaping of the dog is the prelude to a wish-fulfilment, the actual incident of the jumping dog which was the stimulus for the dream being followed by conspicuous attention from relatives which had hitherto been lacking. In this case the dog appears in the dream in order to satisfy those wishes connected with the petting the child received from her relatives. If sleep had continued the dream would probably have had a happy ending. On this assumption the author bases his main theory that the terror dream is the statement of a condition of wish-fulfilment and not the fulfilment itself. The reason why simple wish-fulfilment dreams are rare in adults is because the things which stand in the way of wish-fulfilment have acquired ‘meaning.’ In the exhibitionistic dream the pleasure which should be felt in association with wish-fulfilment is mixed with the unpleasure connected with unsuccessful instinctive activity, the resulting conflict showing itself as ‘anxiety.’ In referring to post-war dreams an interesting analogy is drawn between ‘going over the top’ or ‘no man’s land,’ and a condition of escape from civilization with its absence of any code of morality. Thus the war-dream would become a condition of wish-fulfilment. ‘No man’s land’ would obviate the difficulties of peace conditions. In stating that wish-fulfilment seems to be the whole purpose of the war-dream, Green appears to disagree with Freud’s latest theory that such dreams obey the repetition-compulsion.

ROBERT M. RIGGALL.

This is an interesting sketch of the phantasy life of a Scandinavian child, six years of age, who lived with her mother and an eighteen-year-old stepsister, the child’s father having been divorced. The author observes that an enforced over-occupation with phantasy, together with a strong ego-ideal, caused delay in the onset of the latency period, phantasy becoming the only possible compromise between reality and wishes. The author, who was intimately associated with the child, observed various reactions of love and hate towards herself which clearly illustrated the working of the Ædipus situation. The mechanism of a compulsion to phantastic lying and kleptomania, with their relation to each other, agrees with the observations of others. An interesting drawing is reproduced, showing the child’s phantasy of faecal birth, and some observations are made concerning an attempt to establish relations with a love-object on the basis of her masochistic tendencies and anal-erotism.

Robert M. Riggall.

NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.


Gordon classifies neurotic tremors according to their emotional accompaniment. When this anxiety is slight or lacking he finds a condition of simultaneous hypertonus of antagonistic muscles which often follows the result of a wound or other fear of movement in the limb. The removal of the tremor by relaxation cures the condition. The other group includes those cases accompanied by definite anxiety. This affective reaction is discussed from the physiological standpoint. The researches of Bianchi and Head show that the primitive response to painful stimuli is in the thalamus. Discrimination of reactions such as flight, aggression, etc., depends on cortical function, and is not part of the primary response. Involuntary activities, such as dilated pupils, result from the activity of a series of neurones arranged as a specific engram. The effect of the sympathetic neurone is reinforced by suprarenal secretion, which determines the involuntary activities characteristic of fear. Tremor is a useless subcortical reaction, not under proper control as in a cortical reaction. Having discussed the physiology of tremor in relation to organic nervous disease and toxic conditions, the author notes that in all these cases there is a diminution of cortical control over basal ganglion activity. Successful adaptation to environment and particular aspects of personality depend on the establishment of cortical function at its highest level, the development of neurotic symptoms corresponding to an interference with this function. The factors responsible for these symptoms are a constitutional lack of psychological synthesis and temperamental influences in relation to ductless gland secretion which are predisposing factors in the conflict between pleasure and reality, producing anxiety. Regression of sexual conflict to a narcissistic level means that the thwarting