After a careful perusal of these cases one must admit that one is left entirely unconvinced. This, however, does not mean that one is prepared to condemn them out of hand, for, as Freud himself says, it is practically impossible to present a clinical record of an analysis. If it were possible to present it verbatim, which it is not, it would be so verbose and incoherent that it would be unreadable; if presented more or less edited by the analyst, as is the case in this volume, it appears didactic and too much the expression of an individual opinion. The real truth of the matter is that any record of an analysis is a merely intellectual presentation and entirely lacks the affective tone which alone makes it real. Everyone who has practised this type of psychotherapy, whether as a member of the strict community or not, must know how the most surprising statements of patients bring conviction when delivered with their accompanying affect, a fact which, regarded in cold print, would be scouted as impossible. Therefore, the book is not likely to have any effect in spreading the gospel of psychoanalysis; indeed, it may rather have the opposite effect, and it will be many years before the undoubted contribution of Freud and his school can be fully evaluated, and what is of real value, be it much or little, separated from the alloy.

R. G. GORDON.

Contribution expérimentale à l'étude des fonctions du noyau caudé.

By Dr. PAUL DELMAS-MARSALE, Prosector in Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bordeaux. With Illustrations and Diagrams.


As a thesis for the doctorate Dr. Delmas-Marsalet has undertaken the re-investigation of the important question of the symptoms produced by excitation and by destruction of the basal ganglia; he has confined his attention to the caudate nucleus and has worked on dogs. By trephining in two appropriate spots on the lateral aspect of the skull he has been able to place the two poles of an electric circuit within a few millimetres of each other, in the middle of the caudate. Stimulation experiments have been conducted, and destructive lesions have been produced, uni- and bilaterally, by electrolysis.

From this experimentation the author concludes that excitation results in motor reactions which cannot be ascribed to stimulation of the neighbouring corticospinal tract. These are: (1) Rotation of the head and of the opposite side of the trunk, which is set down to a postural function; and (2) movements of mimicry and acceleration of respiratory rhythm, taken to indicate a rôle played by the caudate in the motor expression of affective states.

Unilateral destruction of the head of the caudate is followed by (1) transient crossed hemiparesis; (2) incurvation of the neck and trunk on the same side, temporary or permanent; (3) 'circus' movements, of which some are stated to be postural, and others forced movements of a peduncular or cerebellar kind; (4) crossed disorder of the muscular sense shown by loss of the sense of position of the limbs, especially when at rest; (5) a certain degree of loss of motor activity and spontaneity. In no unilateral case was tremor, chorea, or athetosis observable.
The author assigns the kinæsthetic disorders to concomitant implication of the anterior limb of the internal capsule. As for the neck and trunk curving, he regards it as purely of caudate origin, or, possibly, due to involvement of the 'basal bundle' of Edinger, and thinks it may be compared with the attitude of the neck and trunk in decerebrate rigidity. The 'circus' movements are perhaps connected with thalamo-caudate fibres and so with the termination of the superior cerebellar peduncle in the thalamus.

While these experimental researches are a welcome addition to the somewhat scanty literature on the subject, it will readily be seen that they are open to some criticism, both technical and interpretative.

S. A. K. W.


Those who are not psychoanalytically inclined will doubtless be astonished to note that its principles can in any way be applied to such an obvious organic psychosis. Nevertheless, these authors give interesting and illuminating reasons for seeing evidence of psychological factors in general paresis. This will not, however, be surprising to those who view any psychosis as a reaction of an individual whose whole personality, bodily and mentally, is reacting to inward or outward stress. Previous attempts have been made to explain the paretic delusions of grandeur on a basis of physiological and morphological change, but they have been unsatisfactory and unconvincing. The luetic infection is here regarded as a trauma to the ego and it is shown how similar mechanisms, such as are met with in traumatic neuroses, come into play. It is largely a question of an upsetting of the narcissistic libido, the brain representing the central organ of the ego functions. Within these pages it is demonstrated how the initial neurasthenic symptoms of general paresis, the hypochondria, the depression, the euphoria, exalted delusions, etc., are all psychically determined. Though most of this small volume can only be adequately understood by those who are versed in the current theories of psychoanalysis, there is much stimulating thought therein for any psychiatric reader. It must be taken as an illustration of a distinct advance in our conception of organic mental disorders.

C. S. R.


Any contribution from these leading exponents of psychoanalysis must command respect and attention, and within the small compass of this volume there is much of interest and instruction to practising analysts, for whom it is primarily intended. During the last thirty years the theory of psychoanalysis has expanded far beyond its original bounds and it is not difficult to get lost amongst its intricacies unless certain central principles are kept in mind.
Contribution expérimentale à l'étude des fonctions du noyau caudé

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