ABSTRACTS

of the paretic type of parenchymatous neurosyphilis. Evidence based on subjective and serological improvement justifies the assertion that there is a certain small group of patients with early paresis who derive marked benefit from tryparsamide. In seven cases in the whole series there was a complete return of the spinal fluid findings to a normal state, but no associated clinical improvement. The clinical and serological criteria by which to determine beforehand the patients with paresis who will improve could not be ascertained. The use of bismuth intramuscularly in conjunction with tryparsamide seems to offer better therapeutic results than either given alone. This treatment, however, does not seem to offer as much encouragement as the treatment of general paresis with malaria, but it is indicated in patients not suited to the risk of the latter treatment.

LEWIS YEALLAND.

Endocrinology.

[ 34 ] The present position of vegetative nervous therapy (Der heutige Standpunkt der Vagus- und Sympathicus-therapie).—GLASER, Fortschr. d. Med., 1926, xliv, 11.

This is a review of the action of the vegetative nervous system on various organs and of the ways in which this action may be influenced and made to serve a therapeutic purpose in disease.

Nearly all the elements of the febrile state are manifestations of sympathetic hyperactivity and the drugs of the antipyretic group act in opposition to the sympathetic and aid the vagus. In certain fevers, especially in severe cases of influenza, the sympathetic centres or nerve endings may be poisoned and then a nervous heart failure may ensue; this must be combatted by stimulants of the sympathetic. Whooping cough and asthma among respiratory diseases are influenced by therapy directed towards the vegetative nervous system; and in the circulatory system, the cardiac neuroses, and hyperpiesis and angina pectoris; among gastric disorders cardio-spasm, pyloric spasm and loss of appetite depend on sympathetic and vagal activity. Recent work on the control of the gall-bladder and the reflex influence of gall-bladder disease on the stomach and bowel via the vegetative nervous system are considered.

As regards the kidneys, glomerular nephritis is influenced by diuretics which cause a release of arterial spasm, and orthostatic albuminuria depends on vegetative nervous factors. Endocrine diseases and diabetes, and disorders of menstruation also are much affected by the vegetative system.

Though it contains no original matter this is a useful review and it is accompanied by a considerable bibliography of recent work, which gives it value as a reference article.

J. P. MARTIN.
[35] A contribution to the study of basal metabolism in acromegalics
(Contribution à l'étude du métabolisme basal chez les acromégales).
—Cestan, SendrAI, and Lassalle. Rev. neurol., 1926, xlii, 1.

Two cases of acromegaly are described and illustrated. In the first, a woman,
age 32, there were no glandular symptoms except amenorrhœa. The basal
metabolism was 20.5 per cent. above normal. In the second case, a male,
age 45, five years after the onset of headache and enlargement of the head,
polyuria, weakness, somnolence and impotence developed. In this case the
basal metabolism was 33 per cent. below normal.

The authors refer the increased metabolic rate in the first case to irritation
of nerve centres in the floor of the third ventricle and the diminished rate in
the second case to destruction of these centres.

C. P. S.

[36] The suprarenal cortex and blood cholesterol in dementia praecox.—

That some disturbance of lipoid metabolism may occur in dementia praecox
and may involve the suprarenal cortex, has been suggested by the following:
(a) Previous observations on the sexual development and behaviour of these
patients. (b) The evidence that the suprarenal cortex is involved in disturb-
ances of sexual development. (c) The evidence that the suprarenal has both
an embryological and functional relation to the gonads on the one hand and to
the brain on the other. (d) Substances of a lipoid nature play an essential
part in the functional metabolism of each of these organs. (e) The female
sex hormone and the vitamine for reproduction are both of a lipoid nature.
(f) The low basal metabolic rate frequently observed in dementia praecox
suggests an involvement of the suprarenal. The evidence for these considera-
tions is reviewed. The significance of cholesterol is discussed. Experimental
results seem to show that in many patients with dementia praecox the blood
cholesterol is unusually low, and that it may be more directly correlated with
the psychosis and with sex than with any other recognized factors. That
some correlation with sex seems to exist is considered significant and in accord
with the considerations which suggested the work.

C. S. R.

Psychopathology.

Neuroses and psychoneuroses.

[37] The mental factor in miners’ nystagmus.—H. Wilfred Eddison.

The clinical picture of the condition varies with the mental characteristics
of the subjects. The mode of onset may be gradual or sudden. In the latter