The excess of boys, both affected and unaffected, is limited strictly to a subgroup defined by a negative family history of seizures.

The excess is further limited to single-sex sibships and the existence of these all-male sibships accounts for the sex ratios discovered.

The findings suggest that the use of a differential sex ratio to measure the aetiological weight of sex is a suspect procedure.

No genetic model can justifiably be constructed to explain our findings at this stage.

I wish to thank Dr. V. Smallpeice, who supervised this work, for continuous encouragement and help; Mr. E. J. Finney and Dr. Sampford for much helpful assistance on the statistical analyses; the Research Advisory Sub-Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board for valuable support.

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A. Macrae, Secretary.

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PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN E.C.T.

the degree of association between the immediate results of treatment and 121 defined items relating to age, sex, heredity, previous history, mental status, and features of the therapy. Significant or very suggestive associations were found in regard to 20 such items. A scoring method designed to predict the outcome of treatment was reasonably accurate for this series, only 21% of cases being misclassified.

A comparison was made between the findings and prognostic indications that have been suggested in regard to depressive illnesses not treated by convulsive therapy. A general correspondence was found though there were differences regarding the significance of age and obsessional traits in the previous personality.

This article has been abstracted from a thesis for the degree of M.D. at the University of Cambridge. My thanks are due to Mr. Jonckheere and Dr. S. Crown for assistance in the use of statistical methods, and to Professor A. J. Lewis and Dr. H. J. Eysenck for valuable advice and criticism.

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Nervous Discharge from Small Painless Lesions in Skin and Muscle. By P. W. Nathan.
The Examination of the Cerebrospinal Fluid and Cerebral Cyst Fluid by Paper Strip Electrophoresis. By J. N. Cumings.
The Early Diagnosis of Tumours of the Cauda Equina. By John N. Milnes.
Nocturnal Myoclonus. By Charles P. Symonds.
Periodic Paralysis. By Edwin R. Bickerstaff.

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1, price 12s. 6d.
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