The relation between complaints of persistent pain and family size

would tend to have found this type of activity effective earlier and would probably be more likely to revert to it. The doctor is, in such a situation, not only a 'parent substitute' but also one of the 'sibling surrogates'. Other findings in this investigation, such as those concerning the relationship of the complaint of pain and a variety of family dimensions, including ordinal position, tend to support this hypothesis and will be reported later.

SUMMARY

A study of a representative neurological out-patient population of 123 in a number of dimensions reveals a relationship between family size and complaint of pain. Specifically, those patients who persistently complain of pain tend to have significantly more siblings than those who do not complain of pain to their doctors.

I wish to thank Dr. W. Ritchie Russell for permission to interview and to use records of patients who were under his care, and also Dr. Charles W. M. Whitty for his many courtesies and kind cooperation.

REFERENCES


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THE MAY 1962 ISSUE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING PAPERS:

Observations on blink reflexes GEOFFREY RUSHWORTH
Regulatory mechanisms in Parkinsonian tremor WILLIAM WARD HOFMANN
The effects of adrenaline, noradrenaline, and isoprenaline on Parkinsonian tremor C. CONSTAS
Observations on essential tremor JOHN MARSHALL
The psycho-galvanic reflex M. H. LADER and J. D. MONTAGU
Clinical study of the numerical variation with age of compact nerve endings in the human conjunctiva P. M. REISAGER
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A chemical investigation of the defects of myelination in phenylketonuria L. CROME, V. TYMMS, and L. I. WOOLF

The association of phenylketonuria with leucodystrophy L. CROME
The problem of prosopagnosia E. S. BEYN and G. R. KNAYAZEVA
Teratomatous cysts within the vertebral canal DICK HOEFNAGEL, KURT BENIRSCHKE, and JOSE DUARTE
Nerve root compression associated with narrowing of the lumbar spinal canal JOSEPH A. EPSTEIN, BERNARD S. EPSTEIN, and LEROY LAVINE
An immunochemical study of the proteins in cerebrospinal fluid F. D. ROSENTHAL and J. F. SOOTHILL
Proceedings of the Society of British Neurological Surgeons: 64th meeting
Book reviews

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER,
BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W.C.1, price 17s. 6d.
CEREBRAL APoplexy Types, Causes, Pathogenesis. By Philip Schwartz, M.D. (Pp. vii+140; 35 figures. 52d.) Springfield, Illinois: Charles C. Thomas. 1961. This is a scholarly and detailed review of work done on the mechanism and causes of cerebral apoplexy during the last century. It was written before the demonstration of circulating fibrin-platelet emboli from damaged arterial walls. The author considers that there are pathologically four types of apoplexy: 1 embolic, 2 atherosclerotic-thrombotic, 3 hypertensive due to local disturbances of arteries and arterioles, and 4 those occurring in stenosing athero-sclerosis without hypertension. He weighs the evidence and, apart from cases of mycotic, congenital, and traumatic aneurysms, dismisses rupture of sclerosed arteries as a mechanism of apoplexy. He then brings forward evidence from his own extensive experience that the small multiple foci of cerebral softening due to occlusions coalesce to form the large cerebral haemorrhage found finally in many cases of all four types of apoplexy. However, he argues strongly against the view that mechanical occlusion followed by ischaemic tissue destruction liberates metabolites which cause stasis and hyperaemia. He considers, on the contrary, that the occlusion sets up neurogenic vasomotor disturbances which result in stasis and then tissue destruction. He sees a similar mechanism in hypertension. The diseased arteries have abnormally labile vasomotor control leading to arterial vasostenosis and stasis. This is another version of the theory of 'spasm' as the cause of hypertensive cerebral attacks. This is not really accessible to proof by patho-anatomical investigation of necropsy material but requires a pathophysiological approach. This monograph is a useful historical review. The author's detailed observations on the macroscopic and microscopic anatomy of apoplexy are of lasting value and will have to be accounted for in any theory of causation. However, some of his discussion of pathogenesis may have to be reconsidered, since fibrin-platelet emboli could possibly play a part in all of the four types of apoplexy discussed.

SUPERSensitivity FOLLOWING LesIONS OF THE Nervous SYSTEM. By G. W. Stavraky with foreword by Wilder Penfield. (Pp. x+210; 41 figures. 80s.) Toronto: University Press; London: Oxford University Press. 1962. This is a most interesting monograph in which the author collects and discusses a vast array of phenomena both peripheral and central in which damage to some part of the nervous system leads to a lower threshold of response to drugs or other neuronal influences. Such observations have many important applications in both clinical and laboratory researches.

PSYCHOTHERAPY IN THE SOViet UNION. Translated and edited by Ralph Winn. (Pp. 207; 30s.) London: Peter Owen Ltd. 1962. One might suppose that this book would be mainly concerned with applying Pavlovian techniques to psychotherapy. This is not so. The general range of psychotherapeutic procedures, including hypnosis, suggestion, and reassurance, which are familiar in the West, are all represented here. There are some interesting applications of conditioning techniques—much on the lines of aversion therapy. There is also a tendency to use Pavlovian terms to cover observations and procedures which in this country would be formulated in other ways. But this tendency is not marked and much of the psychiatric phraseology used will be familiar to western readers. In some ways it is disappointing that the thorough-going application of Pavlovian technique, which in theory might be so rewarding in psychotherapy, does not seem to have been undertaken on any large scale.

DIE PFLEGE DER GEMÜTS- UND GESTESKRANKEN, 7th ed. By W. Morgenthaler. (Pp. 366; 68 figures. DM 34.50.) Bern: Verlag Hans Huber. 1962. This is the seventh edition of a well-known textbook of mental nursing in the German language. Surprisingly complete in its scope, it takes in psychology, psychiatry, and a variety of social, legal, ethical, and historical issues as well as specific nursing problems. Inevitably, in a book of less than 400 pages, the tone is dogmatic and many of the opinions require qualification: it is stated flatly, for example, that the patients' diet should consist mainly of fruit, vegetables, cereals, and milk while meat and eggs should be given three or four times weekly. In this country no single book would now be regarded as sufficiently comprehensive for psychiatric nurses but this one is a well-produced specimen of its type.

THE SENILE BRAIN. A clinical study. By R. S. Allison. (Pp. vi+288; 14 figures. 50s.) London: Edward Arnold. 1962. This book is a clinical study of organic mental disorders of varied aetiology seen by the author over a number of years and is an interesting account of his approach to the problem and the methods of examination which he has found most helpful. There is a detailed discussion of the differential diagnosis of focal and diffuse cerebral lesions and of their differentiation from the affective disorders of middle age. A well-written account by an experienced clinician of his approach to a common problem is always of interest and this book is no exception.

CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

The twelfth annual meeting of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons will be held in Houston, Texas, from 31 October to 3 November, 1962. Further particulars from Dr. E. C. Weiford, 4706 Broadway, Kansas City 12, Missouri.