Endemic fluorosis with neurological complications in a Hampshire man


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T. R. FISHER

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TWO CASES OF ACCIDENTAL HYPOTHERMIA IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE WITH UNUSUAL E.E.G. FINDINGS - S. S. GUBBAY and D. D. BARWICK

SPEECH AND OTHER FUNCTIONS AFTER LEFT (DOMINANT) HEMISPHERECTOMY - AARON SMITH

E.E.G. STUDIES IN THE SYNDROME OF ISOLATED EPISODES OF CONFUSION WITH AMNESIA, 'TRANSIENT GLOBAL AMNESIA' - R. JAFFE and M. B. BENDER

PROCEEDING OF THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS

BOOK REVIEWS

Copies are still available and may be obtained from the PUBLISHING MANAGER, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, TAVISTOCK SQUARE, W. C. 1., price 18s. 6d.

Every psychiatrist who fails to respond symptomatically to any form of treatment. Over years of out-patient attendance their growing folders contain reports of treatment by a multitude of drugs, by E.C.T., and by many kinds of psychotherapy. Most doctors are glad to forget these patients who are living reminders of their short-comings as therapists: the author has collected his and attempted to learn from them.

A hundred of the least successful cases were selected from those attending the out-patient clinic of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, and simple statistics are provided about them. The greater part of the book is, however, taken up with detailed case histories of 10 patients. The patients attended over a period of 16 years: in the first eight, treatment was mainly by one or other form of brief psychotherapy; in the last years mainly by drugs. The case histories support the author's contention that they were a most intractable group.

The main conclusion is that there are many patients whose symptoms run a chronic course, unmodified by any treatment, who nevertheless maintain a reasonable social adjustment provided that they are offered more or less continuous support. Psychoanalysis cannot change their personality: palliative treatment can help them to live useful lives. The author further maintains that these patients cannot make this adjustment without long-term psychiatric treatment. This follows less clearly from his results, because there were no control patients and the group contains both schizophrenics and neurotics, whose treatment needs differ. He maintains that the skills needed to treat these patients supportively are possessed by physicians and general practitioners as well as by psychiatrists, and points out that in any case the large number of neurotic patients in the community cannot be treated with time-consuming methods of intensive psychotherapy.

Experienced psychiatrists and general practitioners will find little new in this book, but some of the individual case histories might help newcomers to see the treatment of chronic mental illness in the perspective of time, and to understand how palliative treatment can help patients adjust to their social circumstances even though they retain their symptoms and their personality disorder.

M. G. GELDER

NOTICES

AMERICAN PSYCHOPATHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The 1967 meetings of the American Psychopathological Association will be held on 17 and 18 February 1967 at the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York City. Further information from Dr. Fritz A. Freyhan, APPA Secretary, St. Vincent's Hospital, 153 W. 11th Street, New York, N. Y. 10011.

THIRD EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF NEUROSURGERY

The Third European Congress of Neurosurgery will be held in Madrid from 23 to 26 April, 1967. It will be preceded by the Third International Symposium on Stereoecephalotomy in Madrid on 22 April, and will be followed by Primera Jornada Neuroquirurgica Hispano-Luso-Americana on 27 April and then by a neurosurgical meeting in Lisbon on 28 and 29 April. Further information may be obtained from Dr. G. Dierssen, Apartado Postal (Post Office Box) 6176, Madrid, Spain.

VIIIth SYMPOSIUM NEURORADIOLOGICUM

The eighth Symposium Neuroradiologicum will be held in Paris, UNESCO Building, from 25 to 30 September 1967. Further information may be obtained from Professor H. Fischgold, Hôpital de la Pitié, 83 Boulevard de l'Hôpital, Paris 13e.

SCANDINAVIAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY

The 20th annual meeting of the Scandinavian Neurological Society will take place in Uppsala, Sweden, on 1 and 2 September 1967. Further information from Professor Einar Bohm, Neurokirurgiska Kliniken, Akademiska Sjukhuset, Uppsala, Sweden.
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