He was undernourished and underdeveloped, with a dry scaly skin and absence of body hair. A transfrontal craniotomy exposed a cyst of Rathke's pouch. When the patient was seen two years later a striking improvement was noted. He had grown six inches and had become mentally and physically alert with marked improvement of vision.

R. M. S.


In a series of children suffering from tetany in association with rickets the effect of various agents upon the serum calcium was observed. Those given irradiated ergosterol in doses of 4 mg daily obtained quickest clinical relief and the serum calcium rose to normal on the average in seven days. This form of medication was found more prompt than cod liver oil or irradiated cholesterol. Prompter effect is obtained by the administration of calcium chloride along with the irradiated ergosterol. Unfortunately the authors have not attempted to show the origin of the increased serum calcium when ergosterol alone was administered; and the question whether ergosterol mobilized the body calcium or promoted the absorption of ingested calcium has not been settled.

E. A. C.


The macrocephalia or macromelia paraesthetica described by the author is characterized by a suddenly arising feeling of growth of the head and of separate parts of the body. This symptom may be observed in different endocrinovegetative disturbances, especially in hyperpituitarism. It seems to be closely related to the pseudomelia paraesthetica described by Bechterew, and is apparently produced by irritation of proprioceptive-sensory fibres that transmit the position of the parts of the body.

R. G. G.

Psychopathology.

Psychology.


From a survey of the reported differences between the sexes in the association of ideas as demonstrated by traditional types of word association technique, two well-established facts emerge: (1) significant sex differences in the quality of word associations as indicated (a) by their content (type, extent, value, normality) and (b) by their form, are found in a number of cases where the groups compared are unequal in experience; they are not found in the few cases where
the training and experience of the groups were approximately similar; and
(2) considerable differences are found to exist between the respective fields
of interest of men and women, and of boys and girls, who are representative of
the general population.

Sifting the data systematically has brought to light the following unlik-
enesses between the sexes in terms of the responding subjects. (1) There is
a slight tendency to difference in response types expressed in terms of more
superficial and less meaningful (male) or less indifferent and more cooperative
(female) responses. (2) A slight tendency to difference is found in that personal-
ality type which appears to be rather more a function of the individual and less
of the performance. The male characteristics are objectivity, logic, cool
judgment; the female characteristics are subjectivity, personal evaluation,
warm appraisal. (3) Differences slight and great exist in interest type as
viewed from two aspects: (a) extent of interest, value of interest, normality
of interest, and (b) character of interest. With reference to the first it appears
that sex differences are quite negligible when groups of adequate size and
equality of status are compared. (4) Insignificant differences only are found
in the form type, whether verbal merely or logical in character. C. S. R.

[43] Hand structure and characterology (Handbau und Charakterkunde).—

The article is one of a series by the author in which he attempts to show that
there are characteristic points about the structure of the hand from which
deductions as to character type may be drawn, and that it is probably ob-
servations of this kind which give some scientific foundation to the pretensions
of palmists.

He begins by discussing the relations between physical structure and
character investigated by various workers, especially Kretschmer, concluding
that the latter’s views have on the whole been substantiated by the large
quantity of work done by subsequent investigators. He points out that in
the many points of physical structure considered by these scientists the hand,
though notably an important and highly developed part of the body, has
received little special study except in palmistry. He discusses the latter at
some length, concluding that where its results are not mere guess-work they
give some clue to character as the result of prolonged and observant study of
hands of varied conformation.

Starting out from cases of mental disease, he gives an account of his
findings among cases of dementia praecox and manic-depressive insanity.
Among these he finds that the different types of hands he describes as most
common correspond closely as to the relative proportions among the two
groups, as is found by Kretschmer for his body types. Among schizophrenics
he describes three sub-types: the athletic, accompanying the athletic body
type and chiefly in catatonics; the aristocratic; and the infantile-dysplastic.
Common to all these is a certain lack of harmonious proportion in the hand, a defective circulation, looseness of subcutaneous tissue, and, on the palm, lines running across the usual M-shaped ones from wrist to the base of the fingers, all the lines being poorly marked.

In the manic-depressive group, on the other hand, the pygenic type of hand is of well-balanced form, palm and fingers of equal length, phalanges rather short, and the whole outline smoothly rounded, while the subcutaneous fat is evenly distributed and firmly attached to the skin, the M lines well-marked, without cross-lines, and the circulation good, while the muscle tone varies with manic or depressed emotional states. He also describes differentiating qualities in the usual movements and postures of the hands, the schizoid group having a stiff jerky quality contrasted with smoother movements of the cycloid. The nails of the former are long, curved from side to side, with the nail-bed forming a Roman or Gothic arch, while in the latter they are flatter and form a Norman arch. The infantile-dysplastic type (into which the ‘monkey-hand’ would evidently fall), he finds in cases whose first breakdown comes at puberty.

Moreover, among the pygenic type male and female hands differ markedly, whereas in the schizophrenic types the male hands often are feminine-looking and seldom hairy.

He then discusses at some length his own method of investigating character in the many cases without psychosis in whom he also examined the hands, finding them to fall into the same groups. He tries to regard the personality in three aspects—subjective, objective, and environmental—and investigates the outstanding character traits from this standpoint, under sub-headings of intellect, emotion, and will or energy. The instances he describes are largely criminals or petty-wrong-doers, whose mental state he has to examine. He suggests that research on these lines might give more satisfactory results than most in use for arriving at typical character groupings, and hints that the shape and movements of the hands may have some relation to the introvert and extrovert, in that they may express an attitude assumed to the self and the environment.

The illustrations, photographs, and X-ray prints are not very good, and one feels that drawings would illustrate the outstanding points of the differentiated types more satisfactorily.

M. R. B.

NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.


From the illustrated cases the writer gives, it is concluded that normal health, joy and happiness come from satisfying experiences with environment. Grief is associated with thwarting and unpleasant events. It is a prevalent concep-