

## Psychopathology.

### PSYCHOLOGY.

[180] **Tests of temperament and personality.**—P. E. VERNON. *Brit. Jour. of Psychol.*, 1929, xx, 97.

TEMPERAMENT and personality are of extreme social, educational and industrial importance, so that it is very necessary to devise satisfactory methods of diagnosing, estimating and measuring them, and of establishing more clearly their psychological nature. The rating method is scarcely practicable, although preferable to the ordinary personal interview. In general, objective tests neglect the complexity of the subjective factors involved; owing to their very objectivity and scientific orthodoxy they are artificial and psychologically unsound. Personality and temperament are organized and integrated wholes which cannot be put into simple quantitative terms; their estimation must be supplemented by direct qualitative observation and intuition. Another approach intermediate between the objective test and the subjective interview, as used by Köhler and Burt, was tried with far more promising results. Various simple performance tests and games were given to a number of subjects under conditions that were as normal as possible. Their remarks and behaviour were observed and many traits emerged. Chief of these were æsthetic and scientific constructive interest, planning capacity, emotional instability and variability, extraversion-introversion, suggestibility and persistence. They appear to agree well with the subject's characteristics in real life, and the method is capable of considerable development, systematization and practical application.

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### NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.

[181] **A review of visceroptosis and allied abdominal conditions associated with invalidism.**—H. BEDINGFIELD. *Quart. Jour. of Med.*, 1929, xxii, 611; 1929, xxiii, 1.

AFTER reviewing the literature on the subject, in all 641 references, the author reaches the following conclusions:

1. The position of the viscera within the abdomen may vary to a considerable extent and yet be well within the range of normality.

2. There is no necessary relationship between the body build of the individual and the position of the abdominal viscera beyond that imparted by mechanical necessity. That is to say, *ceteris paribus*, the organs will be higher in a short broad abdomen than they will in a long narrow one.

3. There is a considerable range of movement of the hollow viscera which is normal for any given individual, so that their actual position in health may vary from time to time.