recall; associative reproduction of ideas is impaired under alcohol in proportion
to the amount taken and is distinctly improved under the 0.2 gm. dose of
caffeine, but the effects of recent associations are more powerful than on old
ones. Sex differences of response are not very clearly marked, but there are
some indications, the chief of which is that men are more susceptible to caffeine
and less to alcohol. On the other hand, some clear age differences are shown,
in that middle-aged subjects, in contrast to the majority of the subjects who
were in the early twenties, improved in intelligence performance on either
quantity of alcohol or caffeine. Compared to the 20-year group the very young
group, averaging 17½ years, showed a lesser susceptibility to alcohol and a
greater susceptibility to caffeine impairment.

Finally, there are certain well-marked individual differences which
manifest themselves most in regard to the response made to the smaller
quantities of the two drugs. These individual peculiarities of reaction are
revealed to be largely constitutional, in virtue of the fact that they prove to be
very similar in blood-relatives. In so far as they correlate with the psycho-
logical 'make-up' of individuals they appear to be connected with the
particular 'temper' of the conative impulses and to a lesser extent with the
temperament and character.

C. S. R.

NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.

[26] The somatic basis of the neurosis.—P. SCHILDER. Jour. Nerv. Ment
Dis., 1929, lxx, 502.

A plea to regard the neurosis from every point of view, recognizing how the
lower centres of the medulla and diencephalon influence the cortex, and the
cortex influences the lower centres. Childish experiences are revived by an
immediate adult situation and the total picture of behaviour cannot be analysed
except by taking all such factors into consideration. In this way we get a
dynamic and not a static conception of the neurotic, and a positive idea of his
behaviour rather than a negative idea of how he fails to reach normality.

R. G. G.

[27] The rôle of trauma in various neuro-psychiatric conditions.—MICHAEL

The term 'traumatic neurosis' should be limited to cases exhibiting primitive
instinctive emotional reactions to injury. These reactions may be considered
as being the response of even a normal personality to fear and pain and the other
acute stressful features associated with the accident. Thus the ego is over-
whelmed and emotional symptoms occur. The term 'traumatic hysteria'
should be limited to those compromise-conversion reactions of maladjusted
individuals with physical disorders following injury. The 'post-concussion'
neuroses are considered as a traumatic encephalopathy. A head trauma may,
by increasing the permeability of the cerebral vessels to the spirochaete and the luetic virus, cause a latent syphils to become active and cerebrally localized. Psychoses exclusively the result of cranio-cerebral injury are quite rare. The concept ' traumatic insanity ' is a definite clinical entity but is very infrequently seen even with severe head injuries. Trauma, however, even when not directly involving the head, may precipitate a depressive or manic attack in one possessed of the manic-depressive constitution. Trauma alone cannot cause dementia praecox. When it plays a part it acts simply as one of the contributing emotional factors and its influence on the development of the psychosis is fleeting. It may give a temporary emotional colouring to the picture and may supply material ready to hand for delusional elaboration.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOSES.


Individuals afflicted with chronic persecutory delusions may react in one of two ways; they may defend themselves by active measures such as crying, complaining, accusations, blows, homicidal attacks. Alternatively they may react passively by seeking refuge in flight. The author details six personal cases of vagabondage associated with chronic persecutory psychoses. The flights were not in the nature of impulsive acts but were deliberate efforts at escape. A brief account is given of previous descriptions of this symptom, including Foville's 'aliénés migrateurs' and the 'maladie du juif errant' as recorded by Meige. In some instances the journey is undertaken by the psychotic individual under the influence of an imperative hallucination, with the object of fulfilling a mission or a duty. Reference is made to the mystical vagabondage and dromomania as exemplified by the case of Régis. Differentiation has to be made from fugues, which are impulsive acts accompanied by automatism and defects of consciousness, and which may occur in a variety of mental disorders.

M. C.


A statistical study of family histories in 200 cases of paresis and manic-depressive psychoses. It was found that the psychopathic taint is quite as great in the paresis group as in the manic-depressive group. This suggests that the incidence of the spirochaete determined the nature of the breakdown rather than the breakdown itself.

R. G. G.