further the possibility of a fluid loss as representing the active principle of this diet, three children of practically the same age, weight and type of disease were starved for five or six days and the intracellular and extracellular fluid losses calculated from the excretion of nitrogen, sodium, and potassium in the urine. A, previously on a normal diet, lost both weight and extracellular fluid in large amounts, and was rendered free from seizures. B, previously on a ketogenic diet for nine months with good ketosis but no improvement in attacks, showed similar losses of both weight and extracellular fluid and was also rendered free from seizures. C, previously on a ketogenic diet for nine months with almost complete relief from seizures, lost much less weight and almost no extracellular fluid. Her condition remained the same both during and after starvation. This suggests that improvement with the diet is associated with removal of the surplus sodium or extracellular fluid from the body; when no improvement results these surplus stores have not been removed. It has been observed frequently that fasting may be more beneficial in epilepsy than the ketogenic diet alone. Fasting is not only a high fat diet but is also a salt starvation. It is believed that the action of fasting in stopping epileptic seizures is a triple effect of a high fat diet, a salt starvation, and an acidosis, all of which tend to remove the surplus extracellular fluid from the body. When the ketogenic diet is effective alone the one mechanism seems sufficient. Since the high fat diet may be able to maintain the good effects of fasting although alone it could not produce them, it is believed that a period of fasting should always precede the institution of the ketogenic diet.

C. S. R.


Two cases are described and the literature is reviewed in illustration of ill-effects following administration of allonal. These may be due to too prolonged use, overdosage, or addiction. The authors consider the drug of great value if not used over too long a period and in doses from 2½—5½ grs.

R. G. G.

Endocrinology.


Since there is no longer doubt that the internal secretions have an action on the instinctive and affective life, on mood and character, graphology may be able to render service in endocrinology. Léopold-Lévi first applied graphology in this direction, particularly amongst backward children. It has been demonstrated in such cases that in modifying their internal secretions by appropriate organotherapy changes not only of a neuropsychic nature but also in handwriting occurred. An attempt has been made to correlate some
graphic types with insufficiency or hyperfunction of certain of these glands. The thyroid is the gland of 'emotion' and 'rapidity' (writing very unequal, rapid, sometimes jerky, pointed and sharp) and the suprarenal is the gland of 'intensity' and of 'sustained courage' (writing firm, maintained, rather angular). With suprarenal insufficiency handwriting becomes light, soft, frequently small, sinuous, and sometimes tending to incline downwards. Hypothyroidals have slow, hesitating and round writing. Certain graphic signs are common to the functional disorders of different glands; thus, writing which shows irregular formation of the strokes in such letters as b, l, or t, has been observed in the ovarian insufficiency of puberty and the menopause and sometimes in parathyroid hypofunction.

It goes without saying that we must interpret such results with very considerable caution.

C. S. R.

Psychopathology.

PSYCHOLOGY.


When studying affective experience under a general instruction to describe the total, the observer's initial attitude tends to vary widely and unpredictably. Three types are described; the critical affective, the critical perceptive, and the common-sense attitude. The critical affective attitude is to react affectively to the stimulus and to observe critically the total experience. The critical perceptive attitude is to observe the stimulus-experience critically without reacting affectively to it. The common-sense attitude is that with which we take experience in everyday life as opposed to the critical laboratory set.

Experimental results show that the attitude with which one approaches an affective situation plays an important part in determining one's reaction to it. The nature of the affective reaction varies widely under different attitudes.

C. S. R.

NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.


An attempt has been made to observe a certain number of nervous children, part of whose treatment consists in attending a class in Margaret Morris movement. The following main differentiation has been made:

1. In certain children all the elements of movement are disintegrated —jerky, excessive, or inco-ordinated.

2. In another type, time seems to be affected more than balance, and there is poor, jerky rhythm.