

- [111] **The dehydration method in epilepsy.**—D. EWEN CAMERON. *Amer. Jour. of Psychiat.*, 1931, x, 123.

DEHYDRATION was carried out on a series of typical institutional epileptics. It had no definite effect on the occurrence of fits or on the patient's disposition. The giving of unlimited fluids after a period of dehydration, and the forcing of fluids without previous dehydration, had no definite effect on the number of fits. The patients were adversely affected by the diet. Preliminary loss of weight was severe. The patient's resistance, too, was lowered. Nitrogen retention either precipitated or complicated stages of excitement and stupor, and acidosis occurred during the excitements. The results obtained were such that this method would appear to be of little value in the treatment of typical institutional epileptics. This conclusion is reinforced by the injurious effect on them.

C. S. R.

- [112] **On the treatment of tabetic optic nerve atrophies with sulphur.**—L. WINKLER. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1931, lxxiii, 276.

THE author advocates the use of sulphur as an unspecific stimulant in the treatment of late syphilitic diseases as well as a specifically acting remedy. The technique and results are discussed, and it is found from ophthalmological controls and examinations that sulphur acts in a prominent way on the pathological changes in the optic nerve as follows, viz.: (a) changes of the grayish discolouration into red due to improved circulation, (b) improvement of visual acuity, (c) enlargement of visual field, (d) reappearing of colour vision.

This good effect has been proved permanent to the present time. The sulphur cure can be repeated without fear of accustoming or anaphylaxis. In optic atrophies, however, it is not recommended to repeat it before the expiration of one year.

R. G. G.

Psychopathology.

PSYCHOLOGY.

- [113] **The rôle played by the cutaneous senses in spatial perceptions.**—W. MALAMUD and W. J. NYGARD. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1930, lxxiii, 465.

IN a previous communication it was pointed out that in average persons when two spatial contents (distances), objectively equal but limited by stimuli of different quality (touch in one case and pain in the other), were examined,

such contents between pain-bearing stimuli were perceived as smaller than those limited by tactile points. Further, the two-point discrimination threshold for pain was higher than that for touch.

This study was extended to patients suffering from mental diseases and it was discovered that differences in these reactions, as compared with those of normal persons, existed. They seem to correspond to the psychical attitude of the patient, showing that the higher cerebral functions cannot be regarded as independent of the lower or even of a summation of these lower functions. The brain works as a whole and functions influence each other whether upwards or downwards.

R. G. G.

- [114] **In what sense can we speak of primary colours?**—JAMES DREVER.
Brit. Jour. of Psychol., 1931, xxi, 360.

COLOUR phenomena are physiological and psychological phenomena—in the last resort psychological. Psychologically there seem to be four simple or pure colours, and no more than four. Physiologically also there seem to be four stable colours and no more than four. But in respect of two out of the four psychologist and physiologist are not in agreement. Under the circumstances it appears to be the best plan to abandon the use of the word 'primary' altogether, except possibly in the artistic sense, and to speak of 'physiologically stable' and 'psychologically simple' colours, recognizing four in both cases. The number three has no rational basis. In any intelligible sense of 'primary,' if we are to use the term at all, the physiologist has good grounds for maintaining that there are only two 'primary' colours—blue and yellow. Psychologically there are undoubtedly four.

C. S. R.

- [115] **Movements in optic images and the optic imagination of movements.**
—L. KANNER and P. SCHILDER. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1930, lxxii, 489.

AN elaborate introspective investigation undertaken to discover the reactions of six physicians in respect of images of patterns presented to them and to images of their own movements. The results suggest a definite relationship between vestibular impression of movement and optic impression of movement in view of similarity of results to those obtained in irritative lesions of the vestibular nerve. The results also correspond to what is found in certain intoxications. It is to be noticed that in these experiments the image is not integrated in any pattern 'possessing a psychological need.' This lack of integration may explain the similarity to pathological conditions which admittedly disturb integration.

R. G. G.

- [116] **The effect of mental effort on parotid secretion.**—A. L. WINSOR. *Amer. Jour. of Psychol.*, 1931, xliii, 434.

IN a preliminary survey of the effect of mental effort on the rate of parotid secretion the evidence indicates a definite reduction of normal secretion during a more or less intense attentional attitude. The extent of this inhibition seems to depend among other things upon the type, duration, and intensity of the mental activity employed. The introduction of an incentive to effort is accompanied by a pronounced decrease in the salivary flow. There appears to be a high correlation between organic efficiency and the extent of the inhibition. Conditioned salivary responses are readily inhibited when the subject undertakes a problem in computation. There was evidence that the free flow of saliva used as a control in these experiments is due to the excitatory effect of vascular tone. This being the case, the inhibition of this reflex noted during mental effort is to be explained in terms of the restraining influence of the cerebral cortex. Voluntary activity is superimposed upon and inhibits postural tonicity.

C. S. R.

- [117] **Studies in affective psychology.**—EMILY H. KNIEP, WINONA L. MORGAN and PAUL THOMAS YOUNG. *Amer. Jour. of Psychol.*, 1931, xliii, 406.

CHEMICALLY pure odorous substances were presented to school children under controlled conditions and their affective reactions studied. The experiment showed that children and adults are similar in their likes and dislikes for odours; all correlations between age groups are above 0.90. Raw scores on the test gave a good approximation to the normal curve as in the case of adults. There was a hint that children were more readily pleased than adults, but the result may depend upon suggestion and other non-affective factors. Among incidental results the most important was the discovery that some children of ages six, seven, and occasionally eight and nine years (younger ages not studied) reported that they liked all the odours or more rarely that they disliked all of them. The evidence in some of these cases indicates that non-affective factors partly determine the result.

C. S. R.

- [118] **Handedness and ability.**—M. O. WILSON and L. B. DOLAN. *Amer. Jour. of Psychol.*, 1931, xliii, 261.

As a result of this study, among 2,328 junior high school pupils, 4.62 per cent. of the boys and 2.62 per cent. of the girls were found to be left-handed. Presumably as a result of social pressure, 5.23 per cent. of the boys and 4.14 per

cent. of the girls had been changed from left-handed writers. When intelligence and mean achievement of the sinistrals and dextrals were compared, it was found that the dextrals were slightly superior in every respect. When the two groups had been equated in intelligence the relative superiority of the dextrals in achievement remained approximately the same. When handedness was correlated with intelligence, achievement, and chronological age, a superiority of the dextrals was shown to be consistent throughout, although the coefficients were very low. Dextral girls were slightly superior to sinistral girls in every respect.

C. S. R.

[119] **Dreams and their relationship to recent impressions.**—W. MALAMUD and F. E. LINDER. *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1931, xxv, 1081.

THE authors observed the following as a result of their experiments.

(1) Some contents in the recent experiences of subjects that were left out of their descriptions were subsequently shown to recur in their dreams.

(2) These contents seemed to have a definite relationship to experiences in the earlier life of the person.

(3) Both of these experiences were found to be definitely related to those problems in the subjects' lives that, as far as could be judged, formed the central feature of the disease-process.

The authors state that there was a lack of success in a large proportion of their cases, and the above results were based upon 16 cases reported individually. They believe that in the field of practical psychology a new method of approach is offered for the investigation of retention of memory.

G. de M. R.

PSYCHOSES.

[120] **Some historical phases of the manic-depressive synthesis.**—S. E. JELLIFFE. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1931, lxxiii, 358.

THIS is a long survey of the history of the syndrome from the earliest times compiled with all Dr. Jelliffe's accustomed erudition. Such a survey cannot be abstracted, but it can be recommended to those who wish information on the changes in view which have evolved throughout the history of medicine in respect of this still ill-defined condition.

R. G. G.