NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.


The author has studied the literature of non-purulent encephalitis especially in relation to oculogyric crises and drawn from it the evidence which can best contribute to the study of the genesis of the hysterical syndromes. He comes to the general conclusion that the extracortical zone (basal ganglia and mesencephalon) is of major importance in the genesis of the most important elements in the hysterical syndrome.

These conclusions are at present general and must be worked out in greater detail later, with the documentation of the objective disturbances of the vegetative innervation of the hysteric—disturbances quite independent of psychic activity (especially in relation to the asymmetry of vegetative innervation between the two sides of the body). Attention must also be given to the documentation of hysterical disturbances of an emotional and vegetato-emotional character with special relation to the common site of emotional and vegetative activity in the basal ganglia and mesencephalon.

R. G. G.

PSYCHOSES.


The hyperglycaemic index and the blood cholesterol were examined in 24 cases of manic-depressive psychosis, and a relationship was shown to exist between the two values. The blood cholesterol content shows a delay in the return to normal as compared with the glucose tolerance curve. When the hyperglycaemic index falls to zero, the cholesterol level lies at the upper limit of normal. A rise in the index is associated with quantitative changes in the blood cholesterol of such a nature that the two values bear an inverse ratio to each other. Three cases in which the test has been repeated at different phases of the illness show that variations in the index are accompanied by variations in the cholesterol level. The possible relationship between these findings and a disordered endocrine balance is briefly discussed and an explanation suggested.

C. S. R.


The incidence of brain tumour as a clinical entity is approximately 1 per cent. Psychosis per se may be the first presenting symptom. All cases