On the other hand, an extreme hyperhidrosis which presents pathology in the opposite extreme is likewise generally accompanied by subnormal galvanic reactivity. This is probably accounted for by the fact of central or peripheral exhaustion, and by the fact that in this condition the sweat-gland activity has reached its extreme physiological limit. The majority of the pathological mental conditions are characterized by subnormal electrical reactions. Prideaux has stated that dementias have the least galvanic response, conversion hysterics slightly greater, the anxiety hysterics somewhat more, and normal individuals the most. Odegaard has observed that there is the least reactivity in the organic and schizophrenic psychoses, while 'neurotic' subjects and the 'constitutionally subnormal' show more, and normals the largest effects. According to Westburgh, various mental conditions give galvanic responses in the order of increasing magnitude as follows: paretics, catatonics, non-catatonic dementia praecox patients, manic-depressives, and normal persons. The impression is gained that the reduction in general galvanic reactivity in various mental conditions is more closely related to the severity of the attack than to qualitative differentiation. The traditional classifications are probably of but limited value for this sort of study, and when used should be handled with caution.

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**PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT**


A brief review of the more important contributions to the literature of the subject is given. The new material gathered by the authors reveals that among 122 institutional cases of mental deficiency there were 26, or 21.31 per cent., in which there was premature birth or under-weight condition at birth, or both. In a control group the corresponding percentage was only 3.89. The evidence seems conclusive to the effect that premature birth or under-weight condition at birth is an aetiological factor in mental deficiency. For the most part, if not entirely, the damage is caused by cerebral trauma occurring during birth. Premature and under-weight children are more liable to suffer such damage at birth than are children born at full term and of normal weight. Prematurity and under-weight condition at birth are more common in multiple than in single births; for that reason, and probably by the same mechanism, mental deficiency is produced more often in twins than in single births. Premature birth, or under-weight condition at birth, or both, do not cause mental deficiency per se. In the authors' group of cases no fewer than 19.29 per cent. of those in which the I.Q. had been ascertained showed an I.Q. of over 115.

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