
Further good results in the treatment of eclampsia with pernocton are reported in 73 cases. Usually 6 c.cm. are given by intravenous injection at the beginning of labour and delivery is performed as quickly as possible.


Very briefly the method of pyrifer administration and its reactions are given. In general paralysis with this form of treatment the results in 1933 were 15 cases, with six patients improved, or if the advanced cases were excluded, 10 cases with six improved. The total figures for malarial treatment during the same period were 13 cases with five improved. In schizophrrenia 21 cases have finished the course of treatment; of these eight have shown some improvement.

It seems that pyrifer might be regarded as a valuable therapeutic preparation which, if the results are permanent, will compare favourably with malaria, or at any rate will provide a useful alternative. It would appear that pyrifer has certain advantages compared with malarial treatment as it avoids the introduction into the patient’s system of a serious infectious malady which taxes his strength to the utmost. The height of the temperature can be readily controlled, and this makes it possible for the treatment to be applied to old and feeble patients. It is borne very well and is comparatively free from danger. There is no pain following the injection, and a further advantage is that it can be combined with specific antisyphilitic treatment introduced during the fever therapy. The time of the pyrexia can be arranged—a point of no little importance.

C. S. R.

Experimental study of moods.—V. E. Fisher. Character and Personality, 1934, 2, 201.

In this study the writer has assumed that the hypnotic induction of a mood in a socalled normal subject does not in any vital respect vitiate the personality ‘make-up’ except to bring about artificially a certain feeling-emotion orientation, which might easily occur as the result of any one of a thousand things likely to happen in daily life. A study of the experimental results
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reveals a fairly consistent difference in reaction time for the different moods, irrespective of the particular type of words considered. Thus the average reaction time in the despondent mood of all the subjects for the selected words was 167 per cent. of the reaction time in the normal mood. There was also noted an appreciable difference in reaction time, when the averages are considered, for the different types of words: words without strong mood associations gave the shortest reaction time, words with pleasant mood associations coming next, words with unpredictable mood associations third, and words with unpleasant mood associations giving the longest.

It may be held that a mood is a general response, 'postural' or of the nature of a 'mental set,' and that it therefore acts as a selective factor which tends to inhibit or block all ideational responses except those belonging to a certain category; and that this selective function tends to lengthen the reaction time. It may be argued, following Janet, that a mood is a matter of mental depression, a relative lack of psychic energy, and that due to this insufficiency of 'push,' intellective reactions tend to be retarded. Somewhat in line with Jung's psychology, we might reason that a mood, whatever else, is an 'introversion of the libido,' in other words, a tendency on the part of the individual to engage himself with the matter of how he feels, and that this self-preoccupation interferes with his responding to events in the external environment. Finally, it might be contended that a mood amounts to an accumulation of energy ready for discharge, that it is a preparedness for action, lacking, however, direction or orientation; and that therefore every thought tends to be 'held up' for examination, very much as when one is trying to decide among several different alternative modes of action.

C. S. R.

[91] The measurement of handwriting considered as a form of expressive movement.—O. L. Harvey. Character and Personality, 1934, 2, 310.

This study suggests two principal tentative conclusions. The first is that the personality characteristics graphically expressed in handwriting are the outcome of probably highly complex patterns of behaviour; consequently any attempt to discover characteristics of ascendance or psychoneurosis in handwriting must necessarily consider not simply the significance of an individual sign here or there, but the complicated relationships between many signs. The second is that, although, when taken singly, handwriting measures bear little if any relationship to measures of psychoneurosis and ascendance, nevertheless, when combined in their optimum relationships, they yield surprisingly high indices, enabling one to predict a person's rating on either of these scales within a few points with considerable probability of success.

C. S. R.
The various intelligence tests in the main are closely similar and the varied personality tests on the whole tally although there are certain discrepancies. In some respects in the personality tests the twins differ distinctly, particularly when the quality of their reactions is taken into consideration. One appeared to be more extraverted and sociable, somewhat better adjusted, somewhat self-assertive and rather independent. The other was decidedly less extraverted, and according to two tests even somewhat introverted and less well adjusted. The differences of the personalities appeared to be differences of degree rather than of kind. Graphology does not claim that it can improve upon the diagnosis of intelligence based on the standardized tests; but it is felt that the analysis of the handwriting has supplemented the findings of the emotional tests. A younger brother seems less similar to either twin than the twins to each other; but as he grows older he may become more similar to his twin brothers than his tests at the age of 16 and his writing at the age of 15 would indicate. On the whole the case suggests—as in fact did the majority of other cases of identical twins reared apart—that there is a greater similarity in intelligence than in emotional reactions.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOSES


In identical twins we have the opportunity of studying the specific influence of environmental factors. If schizophrenia is due to a fundamental defect in the germ-plasm, then no matter what the environment would be, if one identical twin develops schizophrenia the other is bound to develop the same disease. The reports thus far have tended to support this point. Here a case in which only one twin was affected by the disease and where the other has remained well for eight years is briefly discussed. An analysis of it shows the great importance of the environmental factors. The twin brothers, with approximately the same endowment and with similar life careers up to the age of 18, had then a sharp change of environment, favourable for one and unfavourable for the other. They then developed altogether different psychobiological reactions. The former became a well-adjusted man in his community; the latter did not succeed, projected his failure on the outside world, and became psychotic. Granting that there is some slight difference even in identical twins, a significant dynamic influence of environmental forces leading to the preservation of mental health in one twin and the formation of a psychosis in the other, seems thereby to have been demonstrated.

C. S. R.