strongly convincing. A study of case-histories would not appear to lend support to any dogmatic pronouncement that men of genius are characterized by solitary traits, although it does seem justifiable to conclude that in some (perhaps many) geniuses there is a decided propensity to solitude and seclusion. This, however, does not seem to involve an innate disposition; rather, it would appear that the tendency can be accounted for on the basis of conditioning. Solitude is not the goal of genius but its refuge. Aloofness is frequently the result of a shrinking from the deteriorating standards of society. The genius is not only constantly forced into solitary retreat, but he sometimes seeks seclusion voluntarily and deliberately because as he associates with mankind he senses the advantages to be gained from insulating himself from the masses. In some instances contempt for society among men of genius may be the result of an attempt to compensate for a feeling of social inferiority.

C. S. R.

PSYCHOSES


Traumatic psychoses are rare, as in the Danvers State Hospital over a period of 16 years they numbered only one-half of 1 per cent. of first admissions. The factor of overindulgence in alcohol had a definite relationship both to the causation of the accident and to the adjustment of such patients after leaving the hospital. The type of injury sustained seemed to play an important part in the adjustment to former surroundings. The cases of fracture of the skull were less apt to readjust socially than those without fracture and this should be an important consideration in prognosis. The most common of the sequela appeared to be: continued irritability; headache; giddiness; and, to a lesser extent, irresponsibility, with impaired judgement. In the deteriorative forms, there was found immaturity and disturbances of the intellectual faculties. It would seem that only a small proportion of head-injury cases develop psychoses. It is well known, however, that they do not escape entirely from mental or nervous defects and that a large number develop neuroses, which ordinarily remain as such and do not develop into psychoses.

C. S. R.

_Psychiatric Quarterly_, 1936, 10, 149.

One hundred cases of prison psychosis were investigated as to the content of the hallucinations. Such hallucinations are symptomatic of a state of fear,
anxiety, a feeling of insecurity and apprehension. The peculiar content in prison psychoses seems to suggest that hallucinations are the outcome of a previous psychological experience. The feeling tone in such a psychotic individual seems to be the conditioning factor in regard to auditory hallucinations.

C. S. R.


The B. coli agglutination test with 76 sera of psychotics did not show, either in the frequency or in the intensity of positive reactions, any different behaviour from that observed in normal persons. The occurrence of normal agglutinins in schizophrenics was found to be nearly twice as frequent as in other psychotics. The observations did not make probable a causative connexion between B. coli infections and mental disease.

C. S. R.


The phenomenon of apparent (i.e. consciously) absent intention exists in acts which gratify deeper hidden purposes. In many of these accidents the damage is inflicted not upon someone else but upon one’s own self. The body then suffers damage as a result of circumstances which appear to be entirely fortuitous but which in certain illuminating circumstances can be shown to fulfil so specifically the unconscious tendencies of the victim that we are compelled to believe either that they represent the ‘capitalization’ of some opportunity for self-destruction by the death instinct or else were in some obscure way brought about for this very purpose. The significant and differential thing about purposive accidents is that the ego refuses to accept the responsibility for the self-destruction. Illustrations are given of how a man plans a trap for another man to protect his home property, forgets that he has done so, returns after an interval, goes into the place he has so carefully protected and is himself killed or wounded. Psychoanalytic studies indicate that the unknown marauder represents a particular person in the unconscious phantasies of the murderer-victim. Automobile accidents often occur in circumstances which are suspiciously indicative of at least unconscious intent. In those cases where serious accidents take place because the driver has fallen asleep, they are probably sometimes determined by unconscious