may have been due to imperfectly developed technique. Finally, the opinion of the authors is that under present conditions surgical intervention offers more hope than any other method of treatment, and should not be delayed for the trial of radiotherapy.

C. P. S.

Endocrinology.


It is noteworthy that tumours of the hypophysis do not always cause symptoms that are purely hypophysial, and a confusing picture may result which causes difficulty in diagnosis; the converse may also be true, for an extensive hypophysial growth may invade rather remote regions and yet not cause such symptoms as might be expected. The tumour reported by Lloyd and Grant belonged to the latter type and was of extraordinary size, measuring about 9 cm. long by 5 cm. in diameter. The microscope showed it to be an adenoma. The parts involved by it were not only the sellar and infundibular region, but the interpeduncular space, the pons, cerebellum, cerebellar tonsil, angle, temporal lobe and the bones of the base of the skull. There was an early right hemiparesis, which can be explained by the great size of the tumour, which caused it to press on the left cerebral peduncle. It was rather remarkable that there was no bitemporal hemianopsia, and that the growth did not cause complete blindness. There were no marked cerebellar symptoms, with the exception of a slight swaying walk, easily confused with the hemiparesis. The Fröhlich syndrome was the most reliable sign and led to the correct diagnosis.

R. M. S.

[117] Some observations on the parathyroid and its use in mental conditions.

The six patients chosen for treatment by parathyroid substance showed a common feature, viz., hyperexcitability, and belonged to the groups of manic-depressive insanity, melancholia and hysteria. Treatment is based on the following factors: (1) Parathyroid substance increases the ionic calcium in the blood, the depressant effect of calcium on the nervous system being well established; (2) parathyroid substance has a detoxicant effect which is non-specific, and tends to break the vicious circle set up by chronic toxic states; (3) an attempt is made to re-establish the sympathetic-parasympathetic balance, evidence of disturbance of which is seen in hyperexcitability and other general symptoms. The writer concludes that the results obtained encourage a continuance of the instigation. Clinical estimations of the calcium index of the blood were not arrived at, although further information is promised.

LEWIS YEALLAND.