Sunday-school. Criminal tendencies appeared at the age of six or seven, and once away from the moral restrictions of his mother he entered upon a career of crime. Punishment and poverty were to him closely allied, and in the absence of proper education a career of crime seemed to be the only way to avoid both. He obtained some compensation for his feeling of inadequacy in his ability to escape detection, which he did most successfully. The presence of a strong sado-masochistic conflict is put down to his father's cruelty; the inflection was to both father and son a means of obtaining a feeling of superiority. His self-taught ability to write brought him at first honest remuneration, but soon it, too, was put to the service of crime in forgery.

His physical appearance, his sense of inferiority, and his strong attachment to his mother all tended to develop his homosexual tendencies.

The author claims that with the light that psychoanalysis has thrown on the development of the human mind it should be possible by scientific training to divert the criminal tendencies of such an individual into useful social channels.

D. M.


In this paper the motive for the admission of an unconscious idea into consciousness at a particular point in a series of associations is discussed.

The writer in his psychoanalytic practice has found that, before the reproduction of a forgotten idea, in many cases an association occurs which is accompanied by a pleasurable affect. This pleasurable idea is of such a nature as to restore in anticipation the self-esteem of the subject, who must suffer pain from the subsequent reproduction of the repressed idea. This compensation has the effect of discounting the motive for repression and weakening the resistance against the painful reproduction of the idea.

In psychoanalysis the discounting of the motive in repression is often effected so radically that patients can give utterance to the most distressing ideas unaccompanied by any affect whatsoever. In schizophrenia the patients at times make use of symbolic actions and ideas, accompanied by violent affective disturbances, yet revealing the meaning of the symbolism with calm. They have, in fact, attached the affect to the symbol. The paranoic, on the other hand, protects himself against the painful unconscious idea by opposing to it a compensatory idea of a megalomaniac nature.

C. W. FORSYTH.

PROGNOSIS AND TREATMENT.

[149] Remissions in general paralysis.—M. W. RAYNOR. Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat., 1924, xii, 419.

Of 1,004 male general paralytics admitted to the Manhattan State Hospital during the years 1911 to 1918, 87.8 per cent. are known to have died, while thirty-three untreated patients had true remissions. Of these, seventeen preserved a complete freedom from active symptoms for four years or more, and in one case the remission lasted ten years. It may be concluded that spontaneous remissions occur in untreated cases of general paralysis, but are
not frequent; that in at least more than one-half of the cases they are not permanent; that remissions may occur more often than once in the course of the disease in the same persons; that remissions are more common in cases presenting a gradual onset, with changes in the disposition, emotional instability and defects in orientation and memory than in any other clinical types of general paralysis; that there are no anamnestic, mental or neurological criteria on which a prognosis for a remission may be based; that factors favourable to the occurrence of spontaneous remissions must be sought elsewhere than in the clinical picture of the disease.

R. M. S.

A study of the effects of treatment by salvarsan and spinal drainage. No cures were effected, the most outstanding result being an improvement in the general health of the patients. No mention is made of von Jauregg's malaria treatment.

R. M. S.

Stammering is here regarded as a neurotic reaction of infantile origin. The primary conflict from which this reaction seems to arise is a feeling of insecurity on the one side and an over-determined desire for power and admiration on the other.

In the course of development experiences are used to strengthen this primary conflict and to fix the neurotic reaction. The stammerer progressively resists in a passive manner all persons stronger than himself, and shrinks from activities which make too great a demand upon him. Further, he is constantly calling for sympathy and special treatment so that he shall not be called upon to perform tasks he feels incompetent to carry out, and is for ever constructing barriers or protective tendencies which prevent his getting into circumstances where defeat is feared.

In all cases cure lies in the realm of guidance and regulating of the neurotic striving after excellence and power. The cure, therefore, is attained when the individual is made to find an ethical standard for his strivings in which the acceptance of social standards and courageous activity are reconciled.

E. Miller.