and shows, in addition, the distribution of these findings in the various psychoses. The findings suggest, in the author's opinion, some endocrine imbalance in dementia praecox, and while the estimations reported have not, so far, proved very informing, he thinks they should be continued as a guide to experimental endocrine therapy.

E. Rivington.


The author rightly lays stress on the importance of that residual syndrome of encephalitis in which changes of character occur. He points out how often the change is met with quite independently of intellectual impairment. He regards the delinquencies that result as direct expressions of instinctive impulses. He believes that in the man these impulses depend on arcs involving the thalamus-corpus striatum level. It is known that the chief incidence of the infective process is in the region of the basal ganglia and walls of the third and lateral ventricles. This might well interfere with the connections between the basal ganglia and the cortex, and these character changes may therefore be regarded as release phenomena, the instinctive impulses being allowed free expression since normal cortical control is abolished. The prognosis is not good, though the affected children may be improved and restrained to a certain extent by ordinary institutional methods.

R. G. Gordon.

TREATMENT.


Some interpretative formulae for modifications of behaviour which attend old age are presented, and for the purpose five illustrative cases are selected. The first case represents the compensation type and is that of an arteriosclerotic, sixty-two years of age, who showed evidence of incompetence two years before he sustained a slight injury which resulted in total incapacity and a compensation claim. The accident, chiefly by instinct of self-preservation, is made the causative crucial point of departure from the level of efficiency. The libido situation is not discussed. The second case is one of exhibitionism in a man of seventy. Such cases show compulsive factors dating from early childhood and their conduct is not wittingly vicious but unconsciously compelling. The third case is that of a recovering hemiplegia and aphasia in a man over seventy, who showed increasing irritability, increased blood pressure, violent outbursts and sexual impotence. That which was playing on the erotism was an old daughter-complex component. The writer urges psychoanalysis in straightening out this type as a helpful adjunct to or substitution for dietetic and drug treatment. The case of a spinster, fifty-five years of age, who presented an anal-erotic sadistic wish and who after four years' treatment became practically well, suggests that a
disabling psychoneurosis with psychotic developments of many years' duration might be resolved by psychoanalytical technique. The last case is one of recurring depression in a man age fifty-six, who had an Oedipus complex and recovered after a few treatments by psychoanalysis. In general, the writer's failures have been greater than his successes, and this he concludes to be due to the fact that the neurosis or psychosis was a better solution of the patients' life difficulties than he, as an agent of reality, could offer.

LEWIS YEALLAND.

[188] A psychoanalytic attempt to explain some spontaneous "cures" in the psychoneuroses.—ADOLF STERN. *Psychoanalytic Review,* 1924, xi, 415.

An analysis of some cases exhibiting neurotic symptoms which disappeared spontaneously but which returned after a longer or shorter interval. In the first case a stutter had been present since the age of seven. The patient joined the army during the war, and did so well that he reached the rank of sergeant-major. His stutter entirely disappeared only to reappear after his return to civil life. The analysis revealed a strong inferiority-complex directed to his father and younger and more athletic brother. In the army he showed his undoubted superiority to his fellow soldiers (brother substitutes), and proved to his superior officers (father substitutes) his ability, and gained their esteem. His ego trends received temporary satisfaction.

In the second case (a female) the neurotic symptoms disappeared when her employer singled her out for special attention and affectionate treatment. She relapsed when her employer married another woman. The analysis revealed the presence of a strong father-fixation together with intense jealousy of her brother who was treated with preference and affection. Her temporary cure was due to her father-fixation finding a displacement which satisfied her libido. Her ego was satisfied because she was preferred before her fellow employees.

The third case (a male) showed improvement when he found temporary love objects in two women who seemed to reciprocate his admiration and affection. He found a temporary mother-substitute, and their undisguised interest satisfied his ego.

In the early stages of an analysis such spontaneous and evanescent cures take place. In these cases, as subsequent analysis will show, the analyst has become a substitute for some member of the patient's infantile environment and the patient is finding an object, in phantasy, to satisfy his libido. This is obtained at the expense of further regression to the infantile stage, the satisfaction of the pleasure principle. Analysis aims at freeing the libido from its infantile attachments so that it is free to find objects in the realm of reality, the reality principle.

DAVID MATTHEW.