

- [242] **Wassermann-fast syphilitics, treated with bismuth.**—L. K. MCCAF-FERTY and J. A. MACGREGOR. *Amer. Jour. Med. Sci.*, 1925, clxx, 22.

TWENTY-FIVE cases with a persistently positive Wassermann reaction of the blood were selected for treatment with bismuth (potassium and sodium tartro-bismuthate). Each patient had had one or more courses of mercury and intravenous injections of arsenic. All were purely 'asymptomatic syphilitics' and showed no alterations from the normal in the cerebrospinal fluid in regard to cells, globulin, Wassermann reaction or Lange curve. One to three courses were given of intramuscular injections of bismuth, and in many cases the Wassermann reaction of the blood became negative or was reduced. Of the patients, 13.8 per cent. relapsed after the second or third course of injections. The value of such treatment, however, is modified by the fact that even in syphilitics with nervous symptoms, such as tabetics, bismuth may reduce or make the Wassermann reaction negative without any beneficial effect upon the course of the disease.

Bismuth therapy was not found to be more productive of albuminuria than other antisyphilitic preparations.

W. G. W.

Endocrinology.

- [243] **Mongolism and the internal secretions (Probleme des Mongolismus im Zusammenhang mit der Lehre über die innere Sekretion in der Psychiatric).**—M. SEREJSKI. *Monats. f. Psychiat. u. Neurol.*, 1925, lx, 136.

MANY attempts have been made to correlate the physical and mental symptoms of mongolism with disorders of one or other of the ductless glands. The condition can scarcely be set down to mere hypothyroidism. It has been attributed to a pluriglandular disturbance, the thyroid leading the way and others following. The gonads and the thymus are sometimes blamed, and changes in the pituitary have been described. While symptoms referable to dysfunction of endocrine organs are common enough, this cannot explain the whole clinical picture. It is highly probable that pluriglandular insufficiency is only a part of a general insufficiency and underdevelopment, which has led Kraepelin to class the condition with oligophrenia. The absence of progression is an indication that whatever the initial morbid process, it soon comes to a standstill. The Mongol has been described as a 'half-baked' child. In the cerebrum the histological features of Mongolism point clearly to some such incomplete development.

S. A. K. W.

- [244] **Basal metabolism in mental disease.**—K. M. BOWMAN and C. C. FRY. *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1925, xiv, 819.

IN twenty-four cases of schizophrenia seven showed abnormally low rates of basal metabolism, and minus readings were obtained in eleven others.

The manic-depressive group showed a tendency towards low readings

in the depressive and hypomanic stages, but this was not as pronounced as in the schizophrenic cases. The basal metabolism of epileptics with or without psychosis was mostly within normal limits, but there was a tendency towards minus readings rather than plus readings.

In mental deficiency with or without psychosis the cases were mostly within normal limits, but there was a definite tendency towards plus readings. Nineteen cases of psychopathic personality were studied. Seven of these showed abnormally low readings and two abnormally high readings. Fifteen of the nineteen cases showed minus readings. It would therefore appear that in three important conditions in which the emotional life of the individual is primarily involved, namely, schizophrenia, manic-depressive psychosis and psychopathic personality, there is a definite tendency towards a low basal metabolism, and that very few cases show an increased basal metabolism.

From the standpoint of the relationship of the endocrine glands to the emotional life of the individual this appears to be an observation meriting further study.

R. M. S.

[245] **Psychological factors in hyperthyroidism.**—NOLAN D. C. LEWIS.
Med. Jour. and Rec., 1925, cxxii, 121.

THIS writer is convinced that true hyperthyroidism is a product of, or at least closely associated with, emotional and sexual developmental disorders, and probably represents a particular constitutional 'make-up' in the broadest sense of the term. Ten patients with frank exophthalmic goitre, as well as numerous psychotic patients with goitre, have been psychoanalysed with results which have led the author to believe that the disease is a severe, often structural, neurosis, depending upon an early, powerful bond of father attachment, dominated by an unconscious incest mechanism and with strong autoerotic cravings. With the exception of the psychotic cases, these patients have been largely reconstructed, chemically, physically and psychologically. In some the results are better than could have been expected from surgery, and the detailed account of the psychotherapeutic hours will be published later.

E. B. G. R.

[246] **Verbo-motor impulsions and disturbances of the vegetative nervous system in the course of states of anxiety** (Impulsions verbo-motrices et troubles neuro-végétatifs au cours d'états anxieux).—G. VERMEYLEN. *Jour. de neurol. et de psychiat.*, 1925, x, 641.

A MALE, age fifty-two, had had, since the age of twenty-five, attacks of abdominal pain accompanied by hypochondriacal ideas and a state of depression, which came on abruptly and left just as suddenly. Asthmatic attacks occurred which were independent of the above, coming during or after, and they did not influence the course of the affection. Several signs of vagotonia were observed in the patient, among which were placed the bronchitic asthma, nausea and vomiting, frontal headache, intolerance of strong sensory excitation, exaggeration of the oculo-cardiac reflex, strong reaction to pilocarpine

and a feeble reaction to adrenalin. Evidently a neuro-vegetative disequilibrium was present, marked by the abruptness of the onset and termination of the attack, by the pain which accompanied it, by the asthmatic crises, and by the biological proofs. Fractional doses, after the method of Tinel, of the drug 'gardenal,' an inhibitor of the vagus, were given with very beneficial results. At present the patient is on the road to recovery.

A. W. YOUNG.

- [247] The relation of neuroses of the sympathetic system to psychical disorders (Die vegetative Neurose in ihren Beziehungen zu psychischen Störungen).—M. ROSENFELD. *Monats. f. Psychiat. u. Neurol.*, 1925, lx, 87.

THE author directs attention to a group of clinical cases in which somatic and psychical changes are found side by side. The former consist of symptoms distinctly resembling those of hyperthyroid toxicosis, and the latter are those of a toxic psychosis. He illustrates his clinical type by reference more particularly to the psychoses of the puerperium. The general conclusion is, that neuroses of the sympathetic system are not a mere concomitant of the psychosis but stand related to it in the order of cause and effect. He admits that this relationship is probable, but not yet proved.

S. A. K. W.

Psychopathology.

PSYCHOLOGY.

- [248] Negation.—SIGMUND FREUD. *Internat. Jour. of Psychoanalysis*, 1925, vi, 367.

AN association given in the negative form is an association repudiated by the ego. The subject matter is allowed to enter consciousness on condition that it is denied. The repression is taken account of but the matter is not accepted. It is the distinction between an intellectual and an affective process. A negative judgment is the intellectual substitute for repression. Judgment may insist or deny that a thing has a particular property, or it may affirm or dispute that a particular image exists in reality. It may be expressed in the language of oral instinctual impulses thus: 'I should like to eat that,' or 'I should like to spit it out'; that is to say, it is either inside me or outside me. The pleasure-ego tries to introject everything that is good and reject what is bad. The decision made by the function of judgment as to the reality or otherwise of something imagined is the concern of the reality-ego, which develops out of the previous pleasure-ego. What is only imagined or subjective is internal, while what is real is present also externally. Originally the mere existence of an image guarantees its reality; an image is a recalled perception, not always a faithful one. The first and immediate aim of the process of testing reality is not to discover an external object, but to rediscover such an object, to convince oneself that it is still there. This process must investigate the distortion in the reproduction of a perception.