

- [206] **Experience with 2,000 intramuscular injections of neoarsphenamine in neurosyphilis.**—A. GORDON. *Amer. Jour. of Syphilis*, 1927, xi, 525.

THE author considers that intramuscular injections of 0.15 gm. of neoarsphenamine, dissolved in 1 c.c. of fresh sterile distilled water and repeated either daily or on alternate days, constitute the ideal method of administering arsenical drugs in neurosyphilis. The cure is progressive, neural reactions are not encountered, and unpleasant sequelæ such as hæmoclastic crises and venous thromboses are not possible. When small doses are injected into the muscles overlying the scapula with a fine needle the treatment is practically painless.

J. G. GREENFIELD.

## Psychopathology.

### PSYCHOLOGY.

- [207] **The psychology of rowing.**—P. E. VERNON. *Brit. Jour. of Psychol.*, 1928, xviii, 317.

IN the rowing of the individual, psychological factors such as his mental attitude are of equal or greater importance than his strength or muscular skill; his style and work are greatly influenced, often unconsciously, by autosuggestion. This applies less to thoroughly experienced oarsmen. The nature of suggestion, namely, indirect mental influence operating through affective dispositions, is demonstrated in individual rowing. In the rowing of the group 'hint' rather than 'prestige' suggestion is of primary importance, since the relationship between members of a crew is one of equality, not of dominance and submission. The eight may profitably be regarded as an organism owing to the reciprocal reinforcement of every attitude in one member by all the others through the medium of the run of the boat. For a boat to go well and win its races there must be developed both a close physiological and psychological interconnection between members of the crew; the former consists in harmonious synchronization of the movements of every member, the latter is a sentiment—group self-respect. Each depends upon and conditions the other. The level of group self-respect rises and falls chiefly with the crew's ideas of the probable success and failure of their boat. It is greatly affected by coaching. The group life of the boat club and the rowing personality are well adapted to the development of the necessary *rapport* between members of the crew. The boat club is a society of a very primitive type. Observations also support a physiological type of theory of affect and do not support the concept of a general undifferentiated nervous or mental energy.

C. S. R.

[208] **The development and function of clothing.**—KNIGHT DUNLAP. *Jour. of Gen. Psychol.*, 1928, i, 64.

THERE have been but four important theories as to the origins of clothing. These are :

1. The modesty theory—which holds that clothing was originally donned to conceal the genital organs, from a sense of shame, modesty, embarrassment, or some other form of sexual emotion.

2. The immodesty theory—popularized by Westermarck and Havelock Ellis, maintains that the purpose of clothing in the beginning was salacious, designed to attract attention to the sexual organs, concealment increasing interest.

3. The adornment theory—that clothing begins in the desire to attract attention, not necessarily of a direct sexual sort.

4. The utility or protection theory—supposes that clothing had its origin in attempts to protect the body from injurious or unpleasant features of the environment.

The modesty theory has probably had the greatest vogue in modern civilization in spite of the various lines of evidence against it. Its falsity should have been evident long ago from the fact that oriental women have had to conceal their faces to be modest, while occidental women have not been under similar necessity; and the fact that native savages are often more modest than clothed Europeans. The immodesty theory is just as improbable, and the study of ancient and savage social conditions and clothing habits produces evidence against both the above theories. Clothing itself has neither modesty nor immodesty. It is merely the breaking of the established convention which makes it immodest. As regards the third theory, we may grant the human tendency to seek the limelight and the influence of this in the developing of clothing and adornment, but if the simple wish for conspicuousness were operating, the individual who should omit the ornament would be the most successful. Granted a clothing system, ornament may be expected to enter into it, but antecedently there must be another factor. The fourth theory has been in disfavour because it has not been easy to see how the most primitive clothing really affords any protection. The possible protection from climatic influences, or from thorns and brambles, is but a minor detail, and the author shows how the most characteristic types of costumes of savage races which flap with the movements of the wearer have the important function of protection from insect pests. Many of the other curious savage adornments are distinguishing social badges and the development of attire from that stage is largely a matter of habit and tradition. The association of clothing and modesty developed slowly and from these early stages the evolution of male and female clothing is different in various parts of the world. Apart from habit, another reason why we conceal our figure in clothes is to be found in sexual selection and competition. The writer in interesting detail points out that in looking back over the history of clothing and adornment we find a great deal which has been

effective in equalizing sexual competition, reducing the competition to a less deadly level. In some respects, at least, savages have been wiser than civilized peoples. Both physical and mental hygiene demands clothing that shall not transgress the limits of protective needs.

C. S. R.

### NEUROSES AND PSYCHONEUROSES.

[209] **Studies in stuttering. II—Photographic studies of the voice in stuttering.**

—L. E. TRAVIS. *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1927, xvii, 998.

IN the method employed by the author Dorsay phonelescopes are used as optical levers for recording both the sound waves of the voice and the 100 double-vibration tuning-fork. The records are made on standard size motion-picture film and show a base line, a time line, and a voice line.

In unemotional, propositional speech records of the stutterer's voice show : (1) the presence of a vibrato and tremolo : (2) periods of tonal fixation, and (3) marked prolongation of tones. Other phenomena found in stutters are : (1) periodic fluctuation of breath pressure ; (2) short periods of vibrations before the voice waves proper begin ; (3) bizarre waves in the voice curve ; (4) groups of oscillations of high frequency but low amplitude, and (5) long series of oscillations which are initiated extremely suddenly by a wave of much greater amplitude than any of its followers.

R. M. S.

[210] **Neurotic behaviour and the teaching of conditioned reflexes.—A. G.**

IVANOV-SMOLENSKY. *Amer. Jour. of Psychiat.*, 1927, vii, 483.

NEUROTIC conduct is the expression of disturbed equilibrium between cortical stimulative and inhibitive processes : either cerebral stimulation or inhibition predominates. The "psychic trauma," generally supposed to be the cause of the development of neuroses, from a physiological point of view is a task difficult for the balancing of stimulative and inhibitive cortical processes (differentiation or integration). The cerebral hemispheres being stimulated to activity by the lower parts of the nervous system (feeding, defensive, sexual, etc., and other unconditioned centres) at the same time meet intensive hindrances in biosocial surroundings ; thus in the cortex a conflict of the stimulative and the inhibitive processes takes place, which produces an abrupt disturbance of intracerebral balance and a widespread irradiation of stimulation or inhibition (stimulative or inhibitive neurosis). The "dislodged complex" corresponds to the origination in the cortex of an inhibition, the result of an unsuccessful bio-adaptation. The cause of a neurosis is incongruity between the complicated nature of the surrounding world and the ontogenetic want of adaptability of the given cerebral hemispheres. The treatment of a neurosis must tend not only to remove cortical "inhibition spots" (dislodged complexes) but also to train the reflexogenous and balancing function of the cortex.

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