

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 phoneoscopes 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.

C. S. R.

- [211] **The relation of occupation to migraine.**—W. ALLEN. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1927, lxvi, 131.

It is pointed out that there is a generally accepted idea that brain-workers and the more cultured members of the upper classes are more subject to migraine than others. The author has tabulated the occupations of 400 migrainous patients and 1,000 non-migrainous patients and finds nothing to support the view that occupation has an influence on the occurrence of migraine.

R. G. G.

- [212] **Clinical contribution to drug addiction : the struggle for cure and the conscious reasons for relapse.**—L. KOB. *Jour. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 1927, lxvi, 22.

REAL drug addicts are possessed of a pathological nervous constitution with its inferiorities, pathological strivings, etc., and relapse is due to the fact that often only by the use of opiates can relief from these distresses be obtained. Now-a-days the laws restricting the sale of drugs prevent milder cases from resorting to drugs after they are once "cured," but the more severe cases revert again and again and so relapses seem to be more common. Nearly all addicts make sincere efforts to be cured in the earlier stages, but later the effort is at best half-hearted and only undertaken for purposes of expediency. The hope for cure wanes as time passes, and the force of habit, numerous impelling memory associations, and increasing physical dependence on opiates are added to the original pathological nervous condition. At the same time physical dependence on opiates is unimportant, as a cause for relapse during the first two or three years of addiction, in those who have been off the drug for two weeks or more. In some very nervous persons, with addiction of long standing, withdrawal of the drug may produce hysterical symptoms or hypomania which may last for several months.

R. G. G.

PSYCHOSES.

- [213] **The significance of research into heredity for the diagnosis and prognosis of the endogenic psychoses** (Bedeutung der Erblichkeitsforschung für die Diagnose und Prognose endogener Psychosen).—HERMANN HOFFMANN. *Münch. med. Woch.*, 1926, 1104.

UNTIL recently work on inheritance of mental diseases was largely focussed on whether it was of the similar or dissimilar type : it has now been definitely proved that similar forms preponderate in heredity, but are not exclusively present. Thus the psychotic parents of cases of circular insanity show 69 per cent. of the same type, with 3 per cent. of the schizophrenic type, whereas among the psychotic parents of schizophrenics 52 per cent. were also schizophrenics and 21 per cent. manic-depressives. Thus schizophrenics appear