ENDOCRINOLOGY


1. Tincture of stramonium in large doses lessens Parkinsonian rigidity and increases the ability to perform fine rapid movements as recorded graphically.
2. It appears to improve the mental condition of the patient.
3. It does not affect the tremor.
4. It is at least as efficacious as subcutaneous hyoscine in large doses, is better than hyoscine by the mouth, and may be given continuously over a long period of time.
5. The optimum dosage necessary to produce this effect varies in individual cases, though it commonly lies between 45 and 60 minims thrice daily.
6. Toxic symptoms even with this large dosage are rarely severe; they may be combated in various ways; they appear to be more common in elderly patients with idiopathic paralysis agitans than in the younger post-encephalitics.
7. The whole tincture of stramonium is more efficacious than atropine or lev- and dextro-rotatory hyoscynamine.
8. The action of stramonium is palliative and not curative.

AUTHORS' ABSTRACT.

Endocrinology.


The authors record a case of recurrence in Graves' disease, where the second attack was ushered in by diplopia. The most striking feature of the recurrence was an almost complete external ophthalmoplegia. The patient ultimately perished in a thyroid crisis characterised by high fever, delirium, dysphagia and loss of sphincter control.

Autopsy in their case revealed marked changes in the suprarenal, thyroid and thymus glands. They regard the thyroid picture as representing an exhausted state, while both the thymus and the adrenal cortex showed degenerative changes.

They comment on the fact that in some cases of myasthenia gravis lesions have been found in the suprarenal glands, and that Marinesco has reported several cases which were benefited by adrenalin administration.

The combined occurrence of Graves' disease and myasthenia gravis is discussed, but they favour the view that myasthenia may be a classic symptom of Graves' disease, and was so in their case. They also quote several cases from the literature showing that ocular and cranial nerve palsies may occur in true Graves' disease. In their own case they regard the ophthalmoplegia as being part of the latter affection.

P. W.

The literature of thyrotoxic confusional states is reviewed and 24 cases (which occurred in a series of 2,286 cases operated on for goitre) are described. The condition is not common, but it is serious and frequently has a fatal issue. Operation does not help and indeed is contraindicated. The course of the hyperthyroidism is not generally as violent as in other cases, but death from exhaustion is a serious risk and all cases are liable to relapses. Hallucinations and delusions with a predominance of depressive states are the usual mental phenomena.

R. G. G.


This paper records the full pathological examination of a characteristic case of the affection. The patient died rather quickly from a 'septicopyaemia,' the effects of which, unfortunately, may to some extent have obscured the findings. In regard to the endocrine system the pituitary was in a condition of excessive hyperaemia, more so than any other organ examined. Structurally it was normal, if rather on the large side. The acidophils were remarkably rich in number, the basophils to a less extent. Between anterior and posterior lobes (pars intermedia) were masses of colloid secretion. Otherwise, the glandular system exhibited only such changes as could be assigned to the systemic infection. No investigation of sympathetic system and vagus ganglia was made, but the tuber cinereum was extraordinarily rich in cells and in a state of hyperplasia.

The difficulties in the way of the interpretation of these histological alterations are recognised, and a non-committal attitude is adopted.

S. A. K. W.

**Psychopathology.**

**PSYCHOLOGY.**


'Idiosyncrasy' is suggested as etymologically a desirable substitute for 'personality,' to connote the integration of traits of temperament and character in the individual. Clinical experience in the direct observations of affective abnormalities affords no very useful hints for the detection and estimation of emotional states actually present. On the contrary, it seems rather to