
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 'septicopyæmia,' 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 hyperæmia, 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
emphasize the complexity of the conditions involved. Mere impressions gleaned at an interview may be very misleading. This emphasizes what is found with 'normals.' The usefulness of the conception of a 'general intensity factor' in the emotional disposition is at present in doubt. Instruments of precision, recording the physiological accompaniments of pronounced (abnormal) emotional states, are of little practical value in estimating the kind and degree of the emotional state present. The only satisfactory method of estimating temperament and character is the biographical one (history-taking) checked by accounts from the patient's relatives and friends, and by observation if possible under social conditions of a restricted kind, e.g., in hospital. Traits should not be taken at their face value, but should be as far as possible traced to the sources; and their relationship to other traits and to the total idiosyncrasy, i.e., their 'setting,' should be considered. This is what is meant by the 'genetic-dynamic' analysis of traits. A mental illness is broadly the result of maladjustment of the individual to his environment. It frequently consists in the exaggeration of certain traits of temperament and character which existed in the individual before he became recognizably 'ill.' These traits are therefore maladaptive and increasingly so. Hence from the study of mental illness the relative importance of certain traits for successful adaptation can be ascertained. The emphasis which comes to lie on certain traits and groups of traits is in some respects different from the values deduced from the theoretical considerations of normal psychology. There is some correspondence of certain groups of traits and types of mental illness. The prognosis of the latter depends as much on the pre-existing 'idosyncrasy' as on the type of illness that develops, some pathological exaggerations of traits being reversible, and others not. The manner of integration of traits in the total idiosyncrasy is of special importance in both normal and pathological psychology. The study of inheritance may lead to a clearer definition of unitary traits. A considerable change in idiosyncrasy may appear at one time or another in the course of the individual's life, the change being determined sometimes by endogenous (or even inherited) factors; and sometimes by a change in the environmental stimuli. Idiosyncratic, like physical, development may be accelerated or retarded by environmental influences, of which the family is the earliest and probably the most important.

C. S. R.

[190] *Theories of bisexuality with report of a case.—Frederick L. Patry.*

*Psychoanalytic Review*, 1928, xv, 417.

**Bisexuality** is a qualitative anomaly which may be evidenced in psychical or physical panels or both. Hermaphroditic features are a part of normal psychological development, being usually exhibited in children three to five years of age. Its abnormal manifestation in the psychical sphere is probably not due to a congenital disposition of the germplasm but rather to an acquired
anomaly conditioned by early childhood experiences, e.g., vivid identification with a child of the opposite sex, or development of an exaggerated erotic attachment to both parents or their substitutes. Fixation at the bisexual level may also be a cause of the perversion. Endocrinological aberrations such as an admixture of ovarian and testicular tissue in the same individual, or a persistent thymus, perhaps have an influence in the production of the anomaly. The personality of the bisexual type is characterized by instability, introspection, feeling of tenseness, tendency to identification, clinging to the mother or father as the real love object, and strong homosexual tendencies. The best evidence of psychic hermaphroditism is furnished by dreams, either in literal or symbolic form, which are significant of regression to an infantile type of thinking or even of archaic phenomena. The history and examination of adult bisexuals usually disclose psychical or physical attributes of the opposite sex. The psychotherapeutic task of the subject is to find out his own individual attitude, and synthesize the elements of his personality.

C. S. R.

[191] An investigation of bluffing.—ERNST THELIN and PAUL C. SCOTT. 
Amer. Jour. of Psychol., 1928, xL, 613.

Bluffing is here defined as "pretending to have greater knowledge than is actually possessed." Situations conducive to bluffing were secured by inserting irrelevant and fictitious items into tests containing legitimate items. These irrelevant and fictitious items were arranged in such a way that they would not be easily detected in a survey of the material of the test. The extent to which the person taking the test expressed familiarity with items of this fictitious character was scored as bluffing. The findings were as follows.

Among the university groups bluffing was found to be universal. Of the students, 50 per cent. expressed familiarity with 46 per cent. or more of the 113 fictitious items. Among the groups outside of the university, bluffing was found to be much less prevalent, only about 17 per cent. expressing familiarity with 46 per cent. or more of the fictitious items. In proportion to the number of legitimate items checked correctly, the amount of bluffing by university students was but slightly larger than that by the non-university groups. The data show a negative correlation between amount of bluffing and age. On the average the men were found to bluff more extensively than the women. This condition was most marked in the case of the freshmen, the percentage frequencies of bluffing for that group being; men 63-1, women 38-6. The students who ranked highest academically averaged lowest scores in bluffing in the test. Students who bluffed most were those scoring just above the average in the intelligence test, and not those scoring highest.

C. S. R.
The purpose of this study is to emphasize the fundamental importance of the processes of excitation and inhibition in determining psychological type, and to show that there is an excitatory or erethitic*, and an inhibitory or kolytic type, based on the predominance of one or other of these functions in the psychic sphere.

Excitation and Inhibition.—In its broadest aspects, the nervous system is composed of an ascending series of sensorimotor levels, representing the whole phylogenetic development of man, and ranging in activity from the lowest reflex to the highest expression of imagination and thought. But in addition to this, we must also recognize two fundamental processes of neural functioning, viz., excitation and inhibition.

The term ‘excitation’ indicates an increase, or the setting into action of a process, and is the response to a stimulus. Inhibition is the diminution or abolition of the excitative state. These two processes are co-operative but opposite in function, and their reciprocal balance regulates all activities of the organism. In the vegetative system they are represented by separate nerves. In the central nervous system inhibitory fibres have not been demonstrated, although the process of inhibition is well recognized. Sherrington has shown the existence of inhibition in the spinal cord, in the motor cortex, and in other regions of the central nervous system, and Pavlov has demonstrated its great importance in cortical functioning, in his classical study of conditioned reflexes. In man he believes that habits, based on training, education and discipline, are a complex series of conditioned reflexes. Pavlov also made the observation that there is a variation in the nature of the individual nervous system among his experimental animals and that two definite types stand out with special prominence. One is a type which responds readily to excitatory stimuli in the conditioning experiment, while the other type is more responsive in the realm of inhibition.

Erethytic and Kolytic Types.—In human beings, while the processes of excitation and inhibition share in all neural functioning, it is evident that some individuals are more excitable and others are more inhibitable, in their relations to environmental and other forms of stimuli.

For these two functions are not always present in the same degree and are closely related to chemical, glandular and metabolic activities of an obscure

* Erethitic (Greek: Erethizo), “excite,” “provoke.”
** Kolytic (Greek: Kolyo), “prevent,” “check,” “hinder.”
constitutional nature. It is interesting in this connexion to recall the existence of vagotonia and sympathetictonia in the vegetative nervous system and their well-known pharmacological reactions. The pathological extremes of these two types are the mania and melancholia of the manic-depressive psychosis. At one end of the scale is mania, with its high degree of excitability of mind and body, flight of ideas, exaltation of mood, and increase of psychomotility. At the other end is melancholia, with retardation of thought and action and depression of mind. Not only is there a disorder of excitation or inhibition in the psychic sphere in these conditions, but evidences of increase or decrease of function is often present in the spinal and vegetative mechanisms.

The erethitic temperament is a mobile one, characterized by great activity of mind and body. Such types are easily excited, responsive, impulsive, emotional and quick-tempered, and inclined to be restless. They are many-sided, have many interests and their psychic trend is objective rather than subjective. They live more in the outer world of reality and action than in the inner world of thought. They are mercurial and inclined to be rash and hasty. The psychic tempo is rapid and there is a slight tendency to distractibility. The general trend of this type is toward expression, and they are accessible and sociable.

The kolytic temperament, on the other hand, is more calm and controlled, with a tendency to passivity of mind and body. Such individuals compared with the erethitic appear cold, apathetic and indifferent. They are introspective, often heavy and plodding, but when more energetic manifest a quiet concentration of power. They are slow-tempered, self-centred and reflective with a tendency to subjectivity. The psychic tempo is slow. They are the thinkers, the dreamers and visionaries, and show a distinctly repressive tendency and are inclined to be shy and reserved.

These two temperaments represent the predominance of excitation or inhibition in the psychic sphere, but in addition to these there is the great middle group in which the two functions are more harmoniously balanced and where there is no special tendency to excess in either direction.

The psychological types of Jordan, Jung and Kretschmer are also considered, and the question is raised whether the predominance of an erethitic or a kolytic tendency is not the important factor in all.

**Author's Abstract.**

**Psychoses.**


Bouman begins a valuable paper by mildly complaining of the absence of help from the psychiatric side in solving the problems of schizophrenia. The