

of agitation and depression gave large reflex responses. As the mental symptoms subside, the size of the reflex decreases. Agitated and depressed patients are unable to reinforce a maximal patellar reflex response; this is a phenomenon of occlusion. In other words there are so many stimuli coming down the spinal cord from higher cerebral centres that a maximal response takes up all the available neurones. Hence reinforcement of a maximal response fails because of occlusion. These patients can still reinforce a small patellar reflex. Hypomanic patients give unpredictable reflex responses. Schizophrenic patients give responses similar to those of normal individuals.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Syndrome of Episodic Confusions. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. cxiii, p. 625, Nov., 1936.) KASANIN, J.

The writer describes two cases of what Kleist has so well described as episodic confusion. He (Kleist) pointed out its possible relationship to epilepsy and migraine and its constitutional nature. He also considered that the disorder was due to a functional disturbance of the nerve elements in the region of the third ventricle.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Endocrine Glands from the Point of View of Neuropsychiatry [*Les glandes endocrines du point de vue neuro-psychiatrique*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, vol. xv, (i), p. 394, March, 1937.) De Loverdo, G.

Endocrine dysfunction, by disturbing the humoral equilibrium, has an action on the whole organism and is nearly always accompanied by some degree of psychical disorder. The author cites examples in cases of thyroid, gonad, pituitary and suprarenal disease. Post-influenzal depression and inertia are due to the involvement of the suprarenal, which is especially sensitive to this infection. The importance of a full knowledge of endocrinology in the treatment of mental disorder is stressed.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

Periodic Nervous and Mental Syndromes Exclusive of Manic-depressive States [*Syndromes périodique nerveux et mentaux en dehors des états maniaques dépressifs*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, vol. xv (i), p. 641, April, 1937.) BARUK, M. H., et Gevaudan, Mlle.

Evidence is brought forward to demonstrate that periodicity may occur in all varieties of psycho- and neuropathic syndromes, and that it cannot be limited to the manic-depressive psychosis. Further, in somatic, neuro-vegetative and cerebro-spinal disorders manifestations of periodicity are frequently to be met with.

It is concluded that periodicity is a fundamental feature of the physiology of the nervous system, and that it can no longer be considered a problem of purely psychological or psychiatric interest.

STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

4. Neurology.

The Ætiology of Headache. (*Bull. Neur. Inst. New York*, vol. vi, p. 12, Jan., 1937.) Brewer, E. P.

Ventriculography was performed 86 times on 77 patients. In a large number of instances introduction of air into the ventricles did not cause headache. Headache is often seen to appear after the withdrawal of fluid and to be relieved by the injection of air. Headache occurred as often in patients who did not have as in those who did have intracranial neoplasm. It occurred especially often when the intracranial pressure was high and was very frequently in the frontal region. It is probable that headache is produced by alteration in the intraventricular pressure.

T. E. BURROWS.

Huntington's Chorea: Its Incidence in the Scottish Highlands. (*Caled. Med. Journ.*, vol. xvi, p. 31, April, 1937.) McWilliam, W.

The writer found cases of Huntington's chorea confined to one fishing village on the east coast of Ross. All have the surname of either Patience or MacLeman, and appear to be descendants of fishermen who have drifted up north from the district round the Wash. It is interesting that American authorities trace most of 962 choreics back to four families who appear to have come from the east coast of England round the towns of Boston and Stamford. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Prolonged Fever Following the Removal of Large Tumours from the Posterior Cranial Fossa. (*Bull. Neur. Inst. New York*, vol. vi, p. 33, Jan., 1937.) Ehrlich, W.

The author reports six cases of fever following the removal of a large glioma in the cerebellum, which lay in some cases in the midline, and in others in the hemispheres. In all cases the removal was accomplished by electro-surgical methods, and in all the wound healed without complication. The fever began within one to four days of the operation, reaching 103° or 104° in the evening, and falling to 99° or 101° in the morning. It persisted for more than five weeks in all patients, gradually falling throughout that period to normal. Four of the six patients appeared to be unaffected by the fever, and two complained of headache and other discomforts. No satisfactory explanation for the fever could be found in spite of repeated physical examinations, blood-cell counts, blood-culture and examination of the cerebro-spinal fluid. All the patients recovered. It is suggested that the fever might result from some profound disturbance in the circulation of the cerebro-spinal fluid. T. E. BURROWS.

5. Pharmacology and Treatment.

The Roentgen Treatment of Tumours of the Brain in the Operating Room by Direct Radiation through the Open Wound. (*Bull. Neur. Inst., New York*, vol. vi, p. 19, Jan., 1937.) Elsberg, C. A., Davidoff, L. M., and Dyke, C. G.

Following experimental roentgen radiation of the brain through the open wound in 16 *Macacus rhesus* monkeys, in order to determine the dosage, the method was applied to 18 patients with intracranial tumour. There was no evidence that there were any harmful effects as a result of the roentgen therapy. T. E. BURROWS.

Pharmacological Action of Three Derivatives of Choline. (*Compt. rend. Soc. Biol.*, vol. cxxiv, pp. 276-9, 1937.) Wispelaere, M. de.

Acetyl- β -methylcholine (I), β -methylcholine ethyl ether (II), and β -ethylcholine (III) have a hypotensive action, respectively 20, 2 and 10 times that of acetylcholine (IV). The heart-slowng action of I, and to a lesser extent that of II and III, is much more prolonged than that of IV. Atropine suppresses or inverts the hypotensive action of II and III and suppresses the action of small, but not large, doses of I. All 3 are intense excitants of the reflexogenic chemosensitive receptors of the carotid sinus. (Chem. Abstr.).

General Paresis Treated by Mosquito-inoculated Vivax (Tertian) Malaria. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. cxiii, p. 619, Nov., 1936.) Kusch, E., Milam, D. F., and Stratman-Thomas, W. K.

The writers studied a group of 72 cases of general paresis treated with mosquito-inoculated vivax malaria, and compared the results with those of a former group of 363 cases treated with blood-inoculated malaria. They found that the course of vivax malaria is milder and better borne when induced through mosquito bite than when induced by blood inoculation.