

*Pre-psychotic Personality of Manic-depressive Patients.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. viii, p. 129, Jan., 1934.) Smalldon, J. L.

The author studied a group of 75 cases, consisting of 25 each of manic, depressive and circular types. The proportion of male to female was 1 : 2. Forty-six of the group approximated to the pyknic type and 29 to the asthenic type. Fifty were extraverted, 9 introverted and 16 equally balanced. There was a comparatively high proportion of cases showing impracticability, vagueness in regard to plans for a career, 66% were talkative, and more than this were active and energetic. Rather more than half were inclined to over-activity or inactivity by fits and starts. Nearly half of the cases were sensitive and easily offended, inclined to see slights where none were intended. Touchiness, grumbling and fault-finding were prominent symptoms occurring in nearly 64%. The pyknic constitution does not appear to be so typical of depressed types. In concluding, the author points out that a considerable number of individuals prone to develop manic-depressive psychosis have a life-history of behaviour deviation predisposing to the type of abnormality developed.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Trend Situations in Manic-depressive Psychoses and Their Interpretation.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. viii, p. 111, Jan., 1934.) Boltz, O. H.

The author summarizes his experiences over a number of years with manic-depressives. He finds that prolonged renunciation or frustration of Eros may, in some individuals, lead to attacks of depression, mania or mixed manic-depressive reactions. Strangulation of Eros automatically releases death or destruction impulses. Depression represents a tendency to negate life; it is a "living death", or may actually lead to death itself. The manic reaction in the manic-depressive psychosis represents an "as if", forced, artificial affirmation of life, behind which lurks a strong death or destruction impulse. In depression the death or destruction impulse is usually inhibited in its satisfaction upon an external object, and becomes transformed into an impulse towards self-destruction.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Juvenile Regression and Sexual Inversion from Hyper-endocrinia in Mania and Cyclothymia* [*Régression juvénile, inversion sexuelle par hyper-endocrinie dans la manie et le cyclothymie*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, vol. xiv (ii), p. 289, Oct., 1933) Petit, G.

Observations made on twelve cases of cyclothymia demonstrated bisexual or homosexual tendencies during the maniacal phase. Perverted or excessive eroticism frequently occurs in maniacal states, and is believed to be associated with hyper-function of the gonads, part of a generalized over-activity of the internal secretory glands. A comparison drawn between the behaviour in mania and hypomania on one side and of the infant and adolescent on the other favours the theory of regression to the juvenile state in mania, where also there is to be found hyper-action of the endocrines.

S. M. COLEMAN.

*On the Origin of the "Influencing Machine" in Schizophrenia.* (*Psycho-analytic Quarterly*, vol. ii, p. 519, July, 1933.) Tausk, V.

Investigation based upon the analysis of one case, a woman, æt. 31, who averred that she had been under the influence of an electrical machine for 6½ years. The man who utilized the machine to persecute the patient was her rejected suitor. According to her he was prompted by jealousy, and only used the machine when his attempts to influence her from a distance by suggestion had failed. A singular feature of the machine was that, as first described by the patient, it was a replica of her own body, and manipulation of the machine produced corresponding bodily sensations. Only subsequently did the apparatus undergo progressive distortion. Eventually it lost all human characteristics, becoming the typical, unintelligible influencing machine of the schizophrenic.