

*Investigations into the Hereditary Transmission of Psychical Defect and their Bearing on Practical Eugenics. (Arch. f. Gynäkol., Bd. cxli, Heft 2.) Luxenburger, H.*

This paper deals with the same problem as Prof. Rüdin's ("Psychiatric Indications for Sterilization"), but covers a wider ground. Only the findings not given in the above paper will be mentioned.

*Schizophrenia.*—The incidence of the disease among the brothers and sisters of schizophrenic patients was found to be 5%, among the grandchildren 2%, and among nephews and nieces 1.4%. Apart from this, a large number of the members of such families are typical psychopaths. While the expectation of schizophrenia among the great grandchildren, great-nephews, etc., approaches that of the average population, it is definitely higher among the cousins. A further finding is that the number of deaths from tuberculosis is in direct proportion to the incidence of the psychosis. Kretschmer's supposition as to the correlation between schizophrenia and the asthenic type of physique is thus borne out.

*Manic-depressive insanity.*—The expectation of this disease cannot be given with accuracy, partly because its development is, to a great extent, dependent on external factors, and partly because the clinical picture is not always clearly defined. It is, nevertheless, certain that the hereditary tendency is dominant. Among the siblings 10%, in round figures, are manic-depressive, while cousins show an incidence three times that of the average population. As regards constitutional factors, of particular importance is the affinity of this disease for the pyknic type of physique.

*True epilepsy.*—The incidence among the average population is 0.3%, among the children of epileptics 10%, among their brothers and sisters 3%, and among nephews and nieces 0.5–1%. A striking feature in such families is the number and variety of psychopathic traits and bodily abnormalities shown by the non-epileptic members. As examples are quoted lack of self-control, with explosive outbursts of temper—the commonest of all; further, dipsomania, pyknolepsy, enuresis, migraine; hysterical attacks; convulsions in early life, and also in association with metabolic diseases and traumatic conditions; eclampsia. The high infant mortality and the frequency of uniovular twins are remarkable. Constitutionally the epileptic population is characterized by an athletic-dysplastic type of physique.

*Mental deficiency.*—This is recessive, and a large number of the apparently normal offspring are capable of transmitting the defect. These present a particularly serious problem on account of their high fertility, and because it is, unfortunately, impossible to distinguish them from the eugenically harmless individuals.

*Hysteria.*—There is convincing evidence that the "endogenous" variety is hereditarily transmitted, but whether as a Mendelian dominant or merely as the concomitant of some other hereditary condition is not known.

Dr. Luxenburger agrees with Prof. Rüdin in regarding voluntary sterilization as the practical measure of choice, with the proviso

that institutional care, on eugenic grounds, be made compulsory in cases where consent is withheld, and where the indication for sterilization is absolute. It is further pointed out that legislation in respect of sterilization (in Germany) is urgently in need of revision, so that surgeons who undertake the operation can do so without fear of legal consequences to themselves. S. ANTONOVITCH.

### 3. Treatment.

*Treatment of Manic-Depressive Psychosis.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Hinsie, L. E., and Katz, S. E.

This is a survey of the literature of the past fifty years. A most extensive bibliography is presented, containing more than 550 references. The various trends of psychiatric interest are summarized, but the method of presentation is intentionally uncritical.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Grading of Patients in Mental Hospitals as a Therapeutic Measure.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Erickson, M. H., and Hoskins, R. G.

The patients are formally divided into six groups, in accordance with their psychiatric status. Each group is described in terms comprehensible to the patients. Patients are promoted or demoted from grade to grade, in accordance with changes in their mental condition. All such alterations are given publicity in the wards. It is insisted upon that patients are sent home only when they have attained the second highest grade. The method has proved most effective in stimulating self-improvement and confidence.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Dehydration Method in Epilepsy.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Cameron, D. E.

The method was carried out on a series of twelve typical institutional epileptics. There was no definite effect upon the occurrence of fits, or upon the patient's disposition. The patients were adversely affected by the diet; loss of weight was severe, and resistance was lowered. The method would appear to be of little value.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Autohæmotherapy in Mental Diseases.* (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, June, 1931.) Dessuelles, M., and Chiarli, A.

This method of treatment has been tried on 64 psychotics, the most satisfactory results being obtained in cases of anxiety, melancholia and in certain early delusional states. In the former group, 8 recovered, 7 improved, and 4 were unchanged. In the latter group of 6, 2 recovered, 2 improved in behaviour, and 2 remained unchanged. Five to 10 c.c. of citrated blood were given at one- to or three-day intervals, the number of injections being determined by the oculo-cardiac reflex, the blood-pressure, and changes