On the psychological level, the study of intelligence problems is revealing how much maladjustment is due to discrepancy between amount and type of capacity and attempted achievement, and is revealing the *rôle* of general and special abilities and disabilities in such problems. The study of temperament in the sphere of mental deficiency must ultimately reveal interesting and important relationships between innate emotional traits and acquired psychoses and psychoneuroses superimposed on them.

On the social level the task of educating defective children has elicited important educational principles which will enable us to exploit more fully the capacity of both normal and supernormal children. The theory and practice of vocational diagnosis and training being built up as a direct result of the needs of defectives must ultimately be of fundamental importance to the process of rehabilitation of the maladjusted; vocational treatment will follow psychotherapy as stages in the same process.

The treatment of mental defectives has emphasized the need for social workers with psychiatric training, whose functions will be partly corrective and controlled by the psychiatrist, and partly preventive with power to act on their own initiative.

J. R. LORD.

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4. Pathology.

Calcifications in the Choroid Plexus with Consideration of Their Significance. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., March,* 1929.) *Sachs, E., and Whitney, C.*

The authors describe the case of a microcephalic idiot of 18 whose skull, on radiography, showed well-marked calcification of the choroid plexus in both lateral ventricles and in the third ventricle. They consider that the calcifications are formed about substances which the choroid has retained and which have been prevented from getting into the cerebro-spinal fluid.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Alzheimer's Disease. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., April,* 1929.) *Malamud, W., and Lowenberg, K.*

The authors describe two cases of Alzheimer's disease, one aged 65, the other 15. The latter case showed advanced changes in the choroid plexus. This condition does not appear to have been mentioned by other authors. Possibly there is some relation between the changes in the choroid plexus and the formation of plaques, etc., so characteristic of Alzheimer's disease.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Endarteritis of the Small Cortical Vessels in Severe Infections and Toxæmias. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., April,* 1929.) *Winkelman, N. W., and Eckel, J. L.*

The authors describe seven cases of changes in the brain in severe infections and toxæmias. The conditions comprised typhoid fever,

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acute rheumatic fever, toxæmia of pregnancy, erysipelas, Hodgkin's disease, chronic tuberculosis and an undetermined toxic condition. Clinically the cases resembled meningismus rather than a real meningitis. Pathologically the chief change was in the small cortical vessels, with resultant secondary manifestations in the brain-substance. The lining cells of the small vessels showed swelling and proliferation, along with formation of new vessels. Scattered throughout the cortex were small microscopic areas of partial or complete softening resulting from cutting off the blood-supply by the swollen endothelial cells. Cloudy swelling in the ganglion cells was a universal observation. Reactive glial formation occurred. There was no sign of inflammation, *i.e.*, the process was not an encephalitis. In the chronic stages the endothelial cells of the vessels become shrunken and atrophic, the media becomes swollen and hyalinized, and the adventitia fibrous. Organization takes place in the areas deprived of their blood-supply.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.

The Relation Between the Total Brain Weight and that of Some of Its Component Parts in Epileptic Patients. (*Arch of Neur. and Psychiat., March,* 1929.) *Patterson, H. A., and Weingrow, S. M.*

The authors found that the average total brain weight falls below the normal for both sexes. The average weight of the cerebellum falls below normal, while the average weight of the brain-stem is slightly above normal. The cerebro-cerebellar quotient, determined according to Reichardt, falls within normal limits in both sexes. In the authors' series the average total brain-weight in both sexes falls below that reported for dementia and amentia except in instances of microcephaly, cerebellar atrophy and dementia senilis and paralysis. The average weight of the cerebellum also falls below that reported for the psychoses, except in some cases of atrophy and senile dementia. In the majority of nstances the ratio of the weight of the cerebellum to the total bra n-weight is higher in other nervous and mental abnormalities than in epilepsy. This is also true of the cerebro-cerebellar quotient of Reichardt.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.

Basal Metabolism in Schizophrenia. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., April,* 1929.) *Hoskins, R. G., and Sleeper, F. H.*

The authors determined the basal metabolic rate in 80 cases of schizophrenia. The extreme range was from 71 to 106%, with a mean value of 89%. In 56% of the cases the range fell below the conventional lower limit of normality. The pulse-rate ranged from 42–86, with a mean value of 61. Of the total 286 cases in the literature (including the authors') 48% showed a basal metabolic rate below 90%. The authors conclude that the basal metabolic rate in persons with dementia præcox averages more than 10% below normal.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.

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The Fat, Lipin and Cholesterol Constituents of Adrenals and Gonads in Cases of Mental Disease. (*Biochem. Journ., vol. xxii, No.* 4, 1928.) *Woodhouse, D. L.*

This is an account of an important research suggested by the late Sir Frederick Mott, and conducted by the author at the Research Laboratories, Hollymoor Mental Hospital, Birmingham.

Sir Frederick believed that the fat, cholesterol and lipin substances of the nervous system and gonads were possibly manufactured in the cortex of the suprarenal gland.

The author has carried out an analysis of the total alcohol-ether soluble extractives of the adrenals and gonads in 38 patients in mental hospitals, with the object of showing the relationships between the fatty constituents of these glands, and their relative proportions in cases of mental disorder.

The percentages of total fatty acid, lecithin, sphingomyelin, free and ester cholesterol and free fatty acid were determined and the average results for various mental states and age-groups ascertained. The percentage amount of fatty extractives from the gonads was found to show much less variation than that from the adrenals. The lowest adrenal content was found in dementia præcox and the highest in senile dementia.

Low values of phosphatide were obtained in the adrenals of the confusional group, and high figures were found in the adrenals of epileptics.

The relative proportions of the total cholesterol to the total phosphatide varied greatly in the cases examined, and the ratio of these proportions in the pairs of glands differed from unity in a marked degree, so that the evidence from quantitative chemical analysis of the fatty constituents did not support the view that the lipoids of the gonads are elaborated by and transported directly to these glands from the adrenal cortex. J. R. Lord.

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5. Treatment.

Malarial Therapy of Syphilis of the Nervous System [*Terapia malarica della lue nervosa*]. (*Il Cervello, Anno viii, No.* 4, *August* 15, 1929 [*vii*].) *Marino, Benvenuti.*

The author describes the treatment by malarial therapy at the Pisa University Clinic for Nervous and Mental Diseases, under the direction of Prof. G. B. Pellizzi, of cases of lues of the nervous system occurring in the years 1927–29.

The malarial parasite, the benign tertian (*Plasmodium vivax*), was obtained from a patient at the Clinic of St. Salvi, Florence; 5 c.c. of this patient's blood was injected in the subcutaneous tissues between the scapula and vertebral column in 34 cases, and all responded except 4 (tabo-paresis 1, general paralysis 3); in these repeated attempts failed to carry the infection.

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