Interests of College Students. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychol., July*, 1927.) *Wilson, M. O.*

Any given student may gratify the same general intellectual desire equally well in the several different departments. Students in one of the sciences tend to seek a wider range of experiences than do those who are interested in the humanities. On the basis of scholarship the foreign language students, especially the ancient language students, are not only superior to all other students, but exhibit a wider range of interests. The social science students show a diversity of interests almost equal to that of the classics students, but their scholarship in all departments, including their own, is considerably below the average. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Criminal Tendencies in Normal Children. (*Brit. Journ. of Med. Psychol., July*, 1927.) *Klein, M.*

As early as the second year, when the child has already gone through its oral fixations, the super-ego is at work. Criminal tendencies are in large part due to oral and anal-sadistic impulses. When the œdipus complex sets in, which, according to Klein, is at the end of the first year, it becomes associated with these two impulses. The conflicts which arise owing to the love of the child for objects which at the same time it hates are repressed into the unconscious. Klein points out that the child easily forgets trials and troubles by a flight from reality; he tries at the same time to adapt reality to his phantasies. The play-life of children is concerned entirely with the child's impulse-life and desires. It is anxiety and the feeling of guilt which drive the criminal to his delinquencies. In committing these he partly tries to escape from his œdipus situation. The author considers that the cause of a criminal development is the development of the super-ego in a different direction, and that psycho-analysis ought to be able to cure this. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

7. Mental Hospital Reports.

ENGLAND.

Derby Borough Mental Hospital.—The number of patients at this hospital at the end of the year 1926 was the same as at the beginning of the year, and there were admitted during the year 106 patients. There were on the registers on December 31, 1926, in addition to 399 patients belonging to Derby Union, 30 private patients, 22 service or ex-service patients, and 32 out-borough cases. Of the ætiological factors amongst the admissions, heredity was found in 31% of the cases; critical periods and mental stress were other factors of importance, syphilis was present in 3 cases, and alcohol was deemed a principal cause in 2 males.

The percentage of recoveries on the direct admissions was 28%, and over 50% of these recovered during the first year.

The death-rate for the year was 7·4%, and the chief causes of death were senility and heart disease.

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East Sussex County Mental Hospital.—Hellingly: During the year 1926, 260 patients were admitted, and there remained on the books at the end of the year 1,211 cases of all classes, or 18 more than at the beginning. Of the 153 female direct admissions the prognosis was good in only 49 cases, and of the 84 direct male admissions the prognosis was good in only 27. The largest number of admissions occurred in the decade 45–54.

Of causation, Dr. Taylor reports that "the commonest disabilities are gastro-intestinal disturbances—including pyorrhœa—arterio-sclerosis and senility. These disorders act as predisposing causes in the majority of cases, although in some toxic conditions they may be the exciting cause of the mental attack."

The recovery-rate for the year was 40·25%.

The report on the work of the pathological laboratory under Dr. Geoffrey Shera emphasizes its value in the examination and treatment of patients. An enormous amount of work was done during the year in routine examinations, special examinations, and therapy, and a very valuable *résumé* is given of the exact results of treatment by the Wagner-Jauregg method of 15 cases of general paralysis, many of whom showed considerable improvement.

Dr. Taylor continues his clinic for mental cases at the Princess Alice Hospital, Eastbourne, but believes that this work is of limited value because there is no provision for the admission of voluntary patients to county mental hospitals.

Ipswich County Borough Mental Hospital.—There remained in this hospital at the end of the year 1926, 324 patients, or 10 less than at the beginning of the year. There were admitted 54 patients, of whom 47 were direct admissions, and of these the principal ætiological factors ascertained were: insane heredity, mental stress, syphilis, climacteric, cardio-vascular degeneration; in only one case was the condition considered attributable to excess of alcohol. The recovery-rate for the year was 42·55%.

Three male cases of general paralysis were treated by induced malaria, and of these one recovered, one died and one showed no improvement, and Dr. Ogilvie reports that 2 cases of general paralysis, who had received this treatment and were discharged in 1925, still remained well.

Increase of accommodation appears to be the insistent necessity of this hospital, and Dr. Ogilvie suggests that the wisest and most economical method of providing this is the erection of a suitable nurses home and the provision of a detached admission hospital.

London County Mental Hospitals.—The report is for the year ending March 31, 1927, and shows that the statutory accommodation provided by the Council for mental patients (excluding Claybury Hall for private cases only) is 19,644 beds—which, as the result of structural alterations and additions already in hand, will shortly be increased to 20,391. At all the mental hospitals, with the exception of West Park, the number of patients is in excess of the measured accommodation, and in addition contracts for reception

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of cases were in existence at nine county or borough hospitals for some 400 patients.

The monthly applications for admission to the hospitals show a remarkable constancy over a period of years, and this year's figures only exceeded the previous years by 16; the hospitals with the largest number of direct admissions were West Park, Colney Hatch, Banstead and Hanwell.

The recovery-rates of the different hospitals vary but little, showing an average of 18%, which is probably an index of the cautious attitude of the medical superintendents in scientifically assessing the value of this difficult phrase; the records of re-admission of "recovered" cases over a considerable period show a constant figure, indicating that with all the knowledge and care used, about 30% relapse sooner or later, and about 11% within the year.

The long list of scientific work done by members of the medical staff shows valuable contributions to medical literature. Much research work is being done on post-encephalitic cases at West Park and the Manor institutions.

The record of work done in connection with the after-care of patients through the agency of the Mental After-care Association is extremely interesting, and shows with great clearness the valuable work accomplished by this great voluntary association.

The "farm account" of mental hospitals is sometimes severely criticized. The decision of the sub-committee to publish a "trading" account, in which certain hypothetical charges are made for rent, rates, etc. (but not patients' labour), in addition to the ordinary "farm account," is of interest.

The maintenance charge for the year was 28*s.* 7*d.*

Maudsley Hospital.—The present is Dr. Mapother's third report, and the accompanying statistical tables cover the period from February, 1925, to December 31, 1926, the object being that, in the future, reports and records shall correspond with the calendar year.

The report is one of great interest and value, and establishes without any shadow of doubt the real and steadily increasing usefulness of this hospital to the community and the profession. A large number of early cases of mental disorder are dealt with, from an area corresponding to a four-mile radius from the hospital, and many cases are referred to the hospital by their own doctor. The hospital and its laboratory have a high educational value for both students and graduates.

Dr. Mapother goes into considerable detail as to the various forms of treatment adopted and the types of case which come under observation, and some of his remarks upon those due to sepsis are of special interest.

"Many fallacies vitiate deductions as to the responsibility of latent infection for mental disorder which may be drawn from the results of treating septic foci. There is no doubt that the frequency of cure by such treatment has been grossly overstated, though obviously it should be carried out where there is any adequate

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indication. This overstatement is the inevitable reaction of those enthusiasts with a preference for the perceptible to obscurantism in other quarters. Much oral sepsis is a secondary consequence of mental disorder; it is apt to lead occasionally to the very fatal complication of parotitis. No doubt such sepsis by toxæmia, by destroying appetite and so forth is of great importance. Similar remarks probably apply to other regions than the mouth, but in many such cases neither does the sepsis start the trouble nor will its treatment cure. Unfortunately even when sepsis seems to have initiated psychosis, results of treatment, though often brilliant, are uncertain. In two cases of long duration, where suppuration in the maxillary antrum was treated by Mr. Jenkins, mental symptoms cleared up dramatically. Unfortunately two other septic cases are so far only moderately improved. In one, infection of the urino-genital tract was associated with an ovarian cyst; in the other it was preceded by a carbuncle and accompanied by a pyæmic joint. The mental states varied, though all showed the usual toxic confusional element.

"Experience here has been that dental extraction (as a rule quite necessary) has more often been palpably responsible for precipitating or aggravating psychosis than any form of untreated sepsis. This has occurred under observation here, *e.g.*, one patient with a mild neurosis developed an acute delirium after clearance of the mouth. There was extreme sepsis, and probably this and some similar cases have originated by increased toxæmia due to formation of an extensive raw surface. The seemingly simple remedy of piecemeal rather than wholesale extractions, however, will not entirely meet the difficulty, since some cases have followed just this method. Often it is difficult to assess the respective shares of toxæmia and emotional stress, and it is possible that for some neurotics a weekly ordeal may be the greater risk. Anyhow, the cases here have been enough to make the whole matter worthy of serious consideration in these days when wholesale extraction has such a vogue."

The summary of the special work and publications that have emanated from the hospital and laboratory shows scientific work of high type and great value.

The review of the financial position of the hospital shows that the average cost has fallen from 91*s.* 9*d.* to 84*s.* 9*d.* per patient per week, and that the contributions from patients have risen from 35% of the total to 42%, with corresponding advantage to the county.

Wilts County Mental Hospital.—At the end of the year 1926, 1,176 patients remained on the register of the hospital, and of these 129 were received under contract. The total number of patients under treatment during the year was 1,400. The direct admissions for the year numbered 177 (M., 68; F., 109), and included a considerable proportion of unrecoverable cases. The chief assigned ætiological factors in the direct admissions were heredity, senility, cardio-vascular degeneration, syphilis and epilepsy; alcohol was regarded as a factor of importance in 7·9% of the admissions.

The recovery-rate for the year was 20·3%, and of those recovered 50% suffered from a first attack of insanity of less than three months' duration.

Dr. S. J. Cole has unfortunately to record a severe epidemic of influenza in the early part of the year, and also an epidemic of dysentery, probably due to an undetected "carrier."

Clinics in connection with the hospital have been successfully established both at Swindon and at Trowbridge, attended respectively by Dr. Cole and Dr. Leech.

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