aggressive behaviour. The level of aggression generated by non-aromatisable androgens is generally lower than those produced by testosterone (aromatised into oestradiol in the brain) or oestrogens themselves (Brain, 1977).

Additional studies on violent subjects are required to confirm the antiaggressive effect of CPA on non-sexual violent behaviour and to clarify this effect and the mechanisms involved.

BRAIN, P. (1977) Pituitary gonadal influences on social aggression. In *Hormones and Aggressive Behavior* (ed. B. B. Svare), pp. 3–25. New York: Plenum Press.

OLWEUS, D., MATTSON, A., SCHALLING, D., *et al* (1980) Testosterone, aggression, physical and personality dimensions in normal adolescent males. *Psychosomatic Medicine*, **42**, 253–296.

YUDOFSKY, S. C., SILVER, J. M., JACKSON, W., *et al* (1986) The overt aggression scale for the objective rating of verbal and physical aggression. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, **143**, 35–39.

FLORENCE THIBAUT
JEAN MARC KUHN
LUCIEN COLONNA

Department of Psychiatry
CHS Rouvray
76301 Sotteville les Rouen, France

CORRIGENDUM

Journal, May 1991, **158**, (Suppl. 10), 85–86. The sentence beginning at the bottom of page 85 should read "Two decades on, we are similarly failing to acknowledge the presence of female perversions, including maternal incest."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Discussion on Hypnotism in Dublin

Dr F. R. Cruise, one of the consulting physicians to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, who opened a discussion on hypnotism at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland a short time ago, very candidly confessed that a year ago he was quite undecided whether the usual statements of the chief French observers of hypnotism "were either astounding facts or most audacious falsehoods", and, indeed, that if he had heard his own present opinions a year ago he would have been very sceptical about them. However, a visit to Nancy and Paris, and a short study of the cliniques of Liebeault, Bernheim, Luys, Auguste Voisin and Charcot, have convinced him "that hypnotism is a reality, and a great means towards cure, one which can never be crushed by ignorant and baseless criticism"; and "I believe", he continues, "that it is our duty, and our imperative duty, to do it justice, and rescue it from the hands of charlatans". He had been much impressed in Paris by seeing M. Auguste Voisin hypnotise an insane dipsomaniac girl whom, "by repeated hypnotism and suggestion M. Voisin cured not only of her mania, but also of her evil propensity"; and since his return from France, Dr J. J. Murphy had been equally successful on a case of dipsomania under his care. Dr G. C. Kingsbury followed with a clear speech explaining the methods and uses of hypnotism as practised at Nancy, some of which he had corroborated in England, and pleading that a fair trial should be given to the treatment. Of the twelve others who joined in the discussion, there were several who related cases of pain or morbid habits in which hypnotism had been followed by relief and improvement, and only one who objected to its employment.

Reference

British Medical Journal, 13 June 1891, 1299.

Researched by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Surrey.

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0007125000142382 Published online by Cambridge University Press