moment of crisis for his country. The imagined acts of violence symbolised his repressed wishes to fill a more bellicose *rôle*, and were associated also with a disagreeable and very lively memory of youthful indiscretions with moneylenders. W. C. SULLIVAN.

3. Pathology of Insanity.

The Pathogenesis of Chronic Alcoholism [*Sobra la pathogenesis de la intoxicacion alcoholica*]. (*Rev. de Criminol., Psiquiatria, y Med. legale, Anno V, No.* 26, 1918; *reference in Arch. di Anthrop. Criminale, vol. xxxix, fasc.* 3–4, 1918.) *Ducceschi and Barilari.*

From a clinical study of 121 subjects, including abstainers as controls, and from a series of experimental researches, the authors state that continued intoxication with ethylic alcohol in man and in animals determines a manifest increase of cholesterin in the blood, which in their view explains the generalised organic lesions met with in chronic alcoholism. W. C. SULLIVAN.

The Blood Urea Nitrogen in Katatonia. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis., February*, 1919.) *Rappleye, W. C.*

Examinations of the blood were made before, during and after semi-stuporose phases of katatonia. The cases chosen were mild ones who ate during the period of examination, and the blood was taken before breakfast, about twelve hours after a previous meal, so that the food factor was eliminated as far as possible. Controls were carried out on other patients having similar diet, and the efficiency of the renal function was ascertained in every case. The blood urea nitrogen values showed a 50 *per cent.* or more drop from normal during the semi-stuporose katatonic phase. The significance of this finding is considered as probably due to lowered endogenous metabolism with vasomotor hypotonia. Renal stimulation and incomplete protein absorption from the intestines are considered as unlikely causative or associated factors. F. E. STOKES.

4. Treatment of Insanity.

Modified Psycho-analysis in Borderland Neuroses and Psychoses. (*Psycho-anal. Rev., July*, 1919.) *Clark, Pierce.*

For some seven years the author has made use of psycho-analytic methods in borderland cases. He here briefly summarises results which will later be set forth in full detail.

Seven manic-depressive cases came under consideration. In all it was found advantageous to go carefully over the conscious and foreconscious settings of the patient's difficulties, especially those which seemed to precipitate the periodic depressions. Dream production was mostly found to have quite adult settings and not even latently sexual in interpretation. Nor could analysis be pushed rapidly or completely as in the hysteric neuroses, but dream interpretations had to be, as it were, distilled. These periodic depressants seemed to demand mostly a

https://doi.org/10.1192/S0368315X0001313X Published online by Cambridge University Press