imbeciles, criminals and defectives in America, and suggests that removal of the gonads does not lower the low-water mark of the individual's mentality. Veterinary surgeons in certain countries cure by ovariotomy cows in milk which become nervous, agitated, excited or wasted; the ovaries are nearly always found to be cystic.

He believes that psychical troubles are more likely to be present when there are many small cysts, as there is more destruction of ovarian tissue than in the case of large cysts, where there may be considerable hyperplasia.

His four cases are as follows:

(1) A married woman, æt. 33; one child; signs of Graves's disease present. She became anxious, illuded, tremulous, had attacks of motiveless jealousy, was depressed, and believed herself persecuted by her neighbours. She was operated on eleven years ago and a small cystic ovary removed. Complete recovery mentally and disappearance of the Graves's disease. She has since had two children.

(2) An unmarried woman, æt. 30. For nine years she had melancholia with anxiety, religious and genital obsessions, incapacity for work, insomnia, hypochondria and attacks of hysteria. An enlarged right ovary was removed, and she has been quite well for six years.

(3) Married woman, æt. 27; five children. Became melancholic and anxious, incapable of making a decision; had semi-stuporose attacks, when she became motionless for hours together; was suspected of dementia præcox. Sometimes she had attacks of agitation, wished to throw herself out of the window; was self-accusatory, and thought it was a crime to bring children into the world; had insulting auditory hallucinations. She became bodily ill. The right ovary was painful and enlarged, and was removed (six years ago). She has had another child since then and is quite well.

(4) A woman, æt. 32; nymphomania since twenty. She had genital obsessions, psychasthenia, auditory hallucinations, attacks of excitement and despair. She masturbated continually. She was operated on. Both ovaries had a few cysts on them; the right one, more affected, was removed. Ten months later she was well, though a little run down; she had lost her vicious habits and sexual obsessions.

The author ends by saying that the cases mentioned are too few to draw any conclusions from, but they demonstrate the importance of the endocrine secretions on the whole organism and the existence of psychic troubles due to a hyperfunction of these glands. L. H. WOOTTON.

(1) *Syphilis and State Institutions.* (*State Hosp. Quart., August*, 1920.) *Lawrence, J. S.*

(2) *Preliminary Report of an Investigation of the Incidence of Syphilis in the Families of Cases of Neurosyphilis.* (*Ibid.*) *Heyman, M. B., and Raynor, M. W.*

Lawrence reviews the course and promise of a determined anti-syphilitic campaign. Ancestral syphilis is an important factor in the production of defectives, deficients and delinquents. State laboratories provide statistics of the astonishing prevalence of syphilis and gonorrhœa. In January, the month of incidence of seasonal diseases, syphilis

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ranks sixth in the list, and exceeds tuberculosis. As the former reaches its maximum in summer months, it may well be one of the foremost causes of sickness in New York State. Clinics were used in efforts at control; but patients will only attend for a few months, and not throughout the years necessary for cure. Visitors to the homes of these cases were instituted to encourage persistence. They discovered there a larger field of active disease, often early infective, among the families; also that relatives were in state hospitals (a further stage of the disease); and yet another class, homes broken up, whence the children where in orphanages. The last were offered testing facilities for these children, the blood Wassermann test being used as the readiest and most constant sign of syphilis, though not considered the only or most reliable proof if otherwise determinable. Over 3,000 tests have been taken from orphanages, private, public, and semi-private; 4 *per cent.* give a suggestive reaction, and of these less than 1½ *per cent.* give a four-plus result, which strength is requisite to confirmation of active syphilis. This remarkably small total percentage induced further research. Three children of one family, in order of birth, showed respectively a four-plus, a minus-plus, and a negative reaction, demonstrating that even with positive family infection a late child may be affected little, or not at all. The scattered families of the blood-positive children were next traced; and later those families whose children, though blood-negative, had symptoms of conjugal syphilis. Profound interest attaches to the results. One or both parents were frequently in state hospitals, and several times the death of the parents was attributed to unconfirmed tuberculosis, raising a doubt whether tertiary syphilis was not the real cause. Over 8,000 cases of new syphilis were recorded the previous year, and these figures are known to be incomplete. Further, it is perhaps rare for an early syphilitic not to infect at least one other. It is also being ascertained from all hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria whether the complement-fixation blood test is a routine at entry; a large proportion have notified that it has been or is to be so. Many cases of syphilis are unnoticed because of their indefinite symptoms; the blood test should decide. Investigation of these families may reveal children and others apparently well, who, if untreated, will subsequently be patients.

The second article deals with parallel research from the hospitals. The work was initiated in 1917, and resumed in 1920. Familial investigation was decided on in all cases of—(1) systemic, and (2) neuro-syphilis; the latter is now reported. The patient originally infected was first located, then the family group possibly involved. The groups class in two ways: (1) patient, husband or wife, descendants and marital partners; (2) patient, ascendants for one generation, brothers, sisters, and marital partners. In every possible case there were obtained a Wassermann and a neurological examination. During the first three months of 1920 there were 75 neuro-syphilitics (57 male, 18 female), and the family groups included 254 individuals; total 329. Analysis on relationship showed single 14, married 61 (with 78 husbands and wives), children 146, and miscellaneous 30. Of the extra hospital group (254), there were dead 49 (19·3 *per cent.*); inaccessible or untraceable 44; already examined 82; and not yet co-operating 79.

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Among them were discovered six paretics (adults 4, children 2), and several cases of spastic paralysis. Syphilis was established in the various groups as follows: of the total 38 *per cent.*, the extra-hospital 19·6 *per cent.*, husband and wife 20 *per cent.*, and of the children 18·5 *per cent.* Where the blood Wassermann reaction was negative the case was classed as non-syphilitic, but additional tests, and the completion of the group examination, will doubtless increase the incidence. JOHN GIFFORD.

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4. Treatment of Insanity.

A Century of Psychiatry [*Hundert Jahre Psychiatrie: ein Beitrag zur Geschichte menschlicher Gesittung*]. (*Arb. für Psychiat., München, Bd. i, December*, 1919.) *Kraepelin, Emil.*

This paper (115 pages, 35 illustrations), which serves as an introduction to the first volume of published work from the new German Institute of Psychiatric Research, opens with the remark that he who struggles along a toilsome path towards a distant goal will do well sometimes to look back. Easily may his courage fail, if all his efforts seem to bring him no further, if the way becomes uncertain, and unexpected hindrances arise. But if, in such a case, we survey the road behind us, we see that our strivings have not been in vain, and that in spite of difficulties we have indeed advanced, and have overcome many obstacles once thought insuperable.

So Kraepelin relates once more the progress of psychiatry since the days when the lunatic languished solitary, half-starved, naked and in chains, on filthy straw upon the stone floor of a dark and unventilated cell; when the whip was so useful for rousing him from his reverie and recalling his attention to that outside world from which the lashes came upon him; when the strait-jacket was all the more effective if it prevented him from scratching himself when he itched; when, in cases of persistently dirty habits, a birching worked wonders, for the powerful stimulation of the skin of the buttocks had such a favourable influence on the sphincters; when time-expired convicts were employed as warders, because their labour was cheap; when, for safety, the attendants in asylums were accompanied on their rounds by dogs, and Reil suggested that when entering the cells they should wear armour; when a French report stated that most people who had to look after lunatics became sooner or later insane (a belief still current in most countries, especially Germany), and a professor at Tübingen, lecturing on mental diseases, warned his hearers not for any long time to have anything to do with the treatment of insanity, lest they should go mad themselves; when the asylum physician's principal qualifications were a commanding personality and an all-piercing glance; when psychiatric text-books and journals were largely taken up with disquisitions on the immortality of the soul and on the connection between mind and body; when lunacy was an open shame to the patient and his family, for it was God's punishment for his evil living, and the only safeguard was religious faith; when lunatics had a peculiar penetrating smell, valuable in the diagnosis of insanity; when Cox's swing, with its twirling rope, was an efficient

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