characteristically small. Various comments and criticisms are passed on Lewis's findings, and Dr. Reed concludes that the heart in dementia præcox compares favourably with the organ in other psychoses as regards weight; that it is doubtful whether it is usually small in the catatonic and hebephrenic types; and that the opinion seems to be justified that the heart in these patients does not lack the capacity for hypertrophy. WM. MCWILLIAM.

Psychological Aspects of a Case of Epidemic Encephalitis. (*State Hosp. Quarterly, May*, 1926.) *Hinsie, L. E.*

The author gives clinical details of a case of epidemic encephalitis, which showed psychotic symptoms during the acute stage of the illness and which later developed "hysterical" manifestations. The case was one of a boy, æt. 12. Careful analysis of the mental mechanisms underlying the abnormalities of conduct showed an œdipus background, consisting of a mother-attachment and abnormal stimulation of the sexual instinct. The case was treated by being weaned from his mother through interviews in which he gradually came to an understanding of the significance of his attachment. In the view of the author the brain disease operated as a provocative agent in the conversion mechanism, and that the nearness of puberty contributed no small part.

WM. MCWILLIAM.

The Epileptic Psyche. (*State Hosp. Quarterly, May*, 1926.) *Clark, L. Pierce.*

In the first section the author deals particularly with the epileptic constitution and alteration in character at the advent of a positive diagnosis of epileptic attacks. This "alteration" is first discussed in detail and two reasons for its occurrence are given *viz.*, the enforced projection of an individual of unstable make-up and with inelastic behaviour response patterns into a continually widening social environment which requires an increasing flexibility of adaptation; and secondly the reflex effect of hampering social customs upon the personal egoistic demands of the epileptic.

Among historic descriptions of the epileptic character reviewed and commented upon are those of Vogt, Sommer, Kræpelin, Arndt, Bianchi and Macpherson. He takes it as proven that (1) there is affective defect in all epileptics, sane as well as insane; (2) the alteration is seen to proceed from the mental make-up or constitution of the individual epileptic long before his malady reaches the convulsive stage; and (3) the dementia is but a further development of the make-up. WM. MCWILLIAM.

Peculiarity of Thought in Schizophrenia. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat., July*, 1925.) *Sullivan, H. S.*

In this paper the author presents a psychological study of dementia præcox with the detailed clinical histories of six cases.

https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.73.301.321-a Published online by Cambridge University Press