

distinguished from Alzheimer's disease, normal senile arterio-sclerotic dementia and syphilitic cerebral endarteritis.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

From Psycho-analysis to Psycho-synthesis [De la Psychanalyse a la Psychosynthèse]. (L'Encéph., September-October, 1926.) Maeder, A.

This paper begins with a short *résumé* of the views of Freud, and proceeds to show their defects regarded as a philosophical doctrine. The psycho-analyst emphasizing the past tends to deny that tendency to improve which the author sees throughout human nature. The synthetic point of view which he upholds regards the present as of more importance and value than the past, and according to him the cure of a neurosis depends at least as much on a constructive attitude towards the future as on an analytic examination of the past. Analysis, the author states, is a "means" and not, as too often regarded, an "end." He deplores the relativist, positivist and hedonist philosophic outlook of the present medical generation thus typified by Freud as contrary to the Hippocratic spirit. The author points his arguments very instructively in an account of a young married woman in whose case unsatisfied sexual desire and a generally passionate and immature nature were represented clinically by an obstinate mucous colitis, the large intestine having taken over the duties, in her case, of an erogenetic zone.

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The Rôle of Shock in the Crises of Excitement, Anxiety and Confusion [Le Rôle du Choc dans les Crises d'Excitation, d'Anxiété ou de Confusion]. (L'Encéph., July-August, 1926.) Tinel, J., and Santenoise, D.

The authors have previously argued that paroxysms of anxiety, mania and confusion are, like asthma, urticaria, etc., as a rule preceded by biological reactions comparable to the hæmoclastic shock described by Widal, and in this paper they advance further arguments for the same view. Further, they consider that strong emotion may, in its effects, resemble shock by upsetting the vago-sympathetic balance, and by leading to the liberation of harmful toxic agents previously inactive. Cases in illustration are quoted.

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6. Sociology and Mental Hygiene.

The Penal Establishments and Reformatory Schools of Victoria.

We have received a number of reports from Melbourne, dealing with the working of the penal establishments and reformatory schools of Victoria for the year 1926. These contain several points of interest.

Amongst all children under State guardianship, the incidence of congenital syphilis was between 12 and 15%. In the same series, the incidence of congenital syphilis amongst mentally defective

children was 40%. This indicates a close, although not necessarily a causative connection between the two conditions. Amongst delinquent boys 13% were mentally defective, but a similar percentage was found in boys who were committed to institutions for reasons other than delinquency. During the past twenty-three years the proportion of prisoners to each 100,000 of the population has fallen from 89 to 53. In considering this fall, the increased use of the probation system must be weighed. A considerable number of prison inmates were given an intelligence test. Fixing the lower limit of normality at an "intelligence quotient" of 90, the tests indicate that 58.8% were subnormal. Taking "mental age," 4.8% were found to be below 10 years and 23% below 12 years. We are not, however, provided with any information as to the standard of intelligence in the general population. As in other countries, the chief causative factor in initial delinquency was found to be defective home conditions. Much use appears to be made of an indeterminate sentence, with conditional release on probation. It is claimed that 60% of those who are thus trusted with their freedom are not re-committed to prison. This number, however, includes both recidivists and first offenders. It is, consequently, difficult to estimate the true value of the method.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Fifteen Years' Experience with Defectives on Livo. (Mental Welfare, January, 1927.) Wildenskov, H. O.

Livo is an island of 750 acres, separated by a channel from the Danish mainland. There are in residence about 95 mentally defective male patients, under the care of eleven attendants. The inmates, out of working hours, are allowed to move freely all over the island. The establishment is a branch of the parent institution at Brejning. All the patients sent to Livo had exhibited criminal tendencies. During a period of fifteen years 225 patients were received; 124 of these had been guilty of theft, 66 had committed sex offences of various kinds, 35 were incendiaries. Three-fourths of the patients were between 14 and 24 years of age on reception. All were sent to Livo as being mental defectives, but six were found to be psychopaths; these latter were removed, as it was found that they exercised a bad influence upon the necessary discipline.

The inmates are not necessarily under permanent detention. Cases which appear to be suitable are released, under due safeguards, if situations can be found for them. Releases to the number of 161 have been made, and 58 of these have been re-admitted. Some of the released cases live at the parent institution during the winter, when employment is more difficult to obtain, going out to situations in the spring. This would seem to be an admirable plan. The age and the degree of intelligence of the re-committed cases do not seem to furnish any clue as to the liability to relapse into crime. The prospect of release is regarded as of great importance. Without such a prospect it would be much more difficult to maintain discipline with so small a staff.

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