

chief agencies are repression and sublimation (of which *esprit de corps* is an important development), together with side-tracking (of which swearing, conviviality, and athletics are all manifestations). Of these main agencies upon which the success of military training depends, suggestion acts most potently on the private, sublimation and repression on the officer. It is thus that military training tends to determine the character of the neurosis from which each will suffer.

The present unsatisfactory character of the nomenclature is dealt with. For "hysteria" Dr. Rivers rejects Babinski's proposed term "pithiatism," as well as Freud's "conversion neurosis," and considers that "suggestion neurosis" would be the appropriate term. He defends the use of Freud's term "anxiety neurosis" for the "neurasthenia" group, but uses it in a wider sense than Freud. The appropriate treatment is to lessen suggestibility by re-education, and in regard to anxiety neurosis to concentrate on prevention. Most success, as Dr. Rivers has elsewhere stated, has been attained by a mental analysis resembling Freud's psycho-analysis, but not attempting to go deeply into the unconscious.

HAVELOCK ELLIS.

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*The Rôle of Focal Infections in the Psychoses.* (*The Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases*, March, 1919.) Cotton, H. A.

In this paper the writer urges the important part played by chronic, masked, or focal infections in the production of the psychoses. His cases are submitted to a most thorough bacteriological examination on modern lines, and special attention is paid to the teeth, which are examined by the dentist and if necessary radiographed. Most of the focal infections due to streptococci have their origin in the teeth, and in the course of time these organisms reach remote organs and other structures. In support of his views case histories are given and included under three headings: (1) Severe cases of mania all of whom died, and the autopsy revealed the cause of death as bacterial infection. (2) Hypomanic cases, which cleared up rapidly under treatment. (3) Profound depressions, clearing up when the infection was recognised and treated.

As a result of these researches the following points are emphasised:

That the organisms concerned in focal infections in these cases belong to the slow-growing, non-pus-producing type which are extremely toxic, their origin is usually the teeth, and they may so spread as to persist after the teeth are extracted.

That a thorough search for chronic infection is imperative, and that bacteriological examination should be an essential part of the work in every hospital for the insane.

That prophylaxis in mental disease should include the education of physicians and the public in regard to the fact of dental infections, and dentists should realise the damage resulting from faulty dental work.

That many psychoses could be prevented, and chronic psychoses cured, if these principles were followed in treatment.

H. DEVINE.

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