

The symptoms of dementia præcox, especially the catatonic manifestations, are believed to be due to these lesions. The author has demonstrated that when the lesions were situated in extra-cortical and extra-pyramidal areas the symptoms of catatonia were more marked.

Attention is also again drawn to the author's "black reaction," produced by heating the urine with silver nitrate, and due to the presence of abnormal substances (? amines). The reaction is said to be positive in all forms of confusional insanity, and in about 80% of early cases of dementia præcox, especially of the catatonic type.

The author holds the opinion that a particular micro-organism forms toxins in the lower intestine, and as a consequence of bowel lesions, or an abnormal permeability of the mucosa, these toxins eventually have a damaging effect on a nervous system already predisposed, and cause the cerebral lesions described.

J. R. BEITH ROBB.

*The Boltz (A.A.S.) Test in Cerebro-spinal Fluid. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., September, 1930.) Walker, B. S., and Sleeper, F. H.*

The reaction is not specifically diagnostic for neurosyphilis. As a means for rapid estimation of the protein in the spinal fluid it is of definite value. It is very doubtful if the test can ever be made really quantitative. But where there is no time or equipment for the more elaborate methods, it supplies a convenient approximation.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Takata-Ara Colloidal Test with Spinal Fluid. (Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., October, 1930.) Karnosh, L. J., and King, H. H.*

The authors conclude that the test is not highly specific. It is positive in about 82% of cases of metasyphilis. It is frequently positive in non-syphilitic organic conditions, such as cerebral arterio-sclerosis, brain trauma and tumour.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Hyaline Degeneration in Dementia Paralytica. (Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., July, 1930.) Wolf, A.*

The author presents a case of general paralysis, which at autopsy showed a translucent area of almost cartilaginous hardness in the upper portion of the left precentral gyrus. Similar smaller areas were found in various regions of the brain-stem, both occipital lobes, second left temporal gyrus, both gyri recti and the thalamus. The author concludes that there is a disturbance of protein metabolism in dementia paralytica, and that diseased nervous tissues contain proteolytic ferments. During the deposition of hyaline material, the vessel-walls form the first barrier and are the first site of deposition. After breaking down of the vascular defence, the second defence mechanism is a ring of inflammation and reaction of macroglia. The nervous and supporting elements are gradually destroyed by the pressure of the hyaline, which is partly absorbed,