

hyper-alkalinity predisposes to the crises, and does not result from them.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*A Contribution to the Study of the Body Fluids in Epilepsy* [*Contribution à l'Étude Humorale de l'Épilepsie*]. (*L'Encéph.*, September–October, 1926.) Raffin, R.

This paper reviews the literature to date on the reactions of the blood and urine in epilepsy, and contains the results of hourly estimations of the pH in epileptics and in normal persons. The variations are found to be more marked in epilepsy, and the conclusion is reached that the normal digestive alkaline tide exaggerates an endogenous intoxication and is probably mainly responsible for the epileptic fit.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Pulmonary Hyper-aération—Acido-basic Disparity of the Blood and Tissues* [*Hyperventilation Pulmonaire—Desequilibre Acido-Basique du Sang et des Tissus*]. (*L'Encéph.*, September–October, 1926.) Radovici, A.

The author has tested the results of voluntary hyperpnœa on 20 cases, some normal, some suffering from neuroses, organic nervous disease and epilepsy. The hyperpnœa was maintained for 10 to 30 minutes in each case and its results tested by Chvostek's sign, by the electrical excitability of muscle, by the oculo-cardiac reflex and the atropin test. The results in each group are set out in detail. The alkalinity of the blood was immediately increased by the hyperpnœa, and a state of tetany and of para-sympathetic tonus was induced in all cases within a few minutes. In all cases of epilepsy a fit was produced within 30 minutes, and the author considers this can be relied on as a test for true epilepsy.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Affectivity* [*Sur l'Affectivité*]. (*Journ. Neur. et Psychiat. Belg.*, May, 1927.) Cuyllis, Dr.

The author discusses the rôle of the sympathetic system not only in normal mental activity but in the psychoses, and concludes that it has been undervalued. He considers that though often regarded as of secondary importance the sympathetic is the source of affectivity and of spontaneous mental activity, and that psychoses are due to its disordered action.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Cerebral Starvation due to Premature Arterio-Sclerosis, without Focal Ischæmia* [*La Méiopragie Cérébrale par Angio-sclérose Précoce sans Ischémie en Foyer*]. (*L'Encéph.*, March, 1927.) Claude, H., and Cuel, J.

In this paper is described a case of advanced cerebral arterio-sclerosis, notably diffuse in distribution and without focal lesions, associated with increased intra-cranial tension, in which the symptoms began at the age of 39 years. The authors discuss the symptoms and morbid anatomy, and show how their case is

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.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*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.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

## 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