

The Application of the Pressey X-O Tests to Delinquents. (Med.-Legal Journ., May-August, 1930.) Erickson, M. H., and Pescor, M. J.

The B form of these tests was given to male and female groups, normal and delinquent. The crossed-out words were analysed by determining total affectivity scores. The circled words were studied by determining total idiosyncrasy scores, and establishing key-words bringing out specific complexes and worries. Delinquents tend to have a higher total affectivity score than normals. There is little difference in respect to total idiosyncrasy scores, and the median scores for specific complexes and worries are almost identical. It is best, in practice, to score the total affectivity first; if abnormal tendencies are shown, the key-words should be used.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Variability of Mental Ratings in Re-tests of Neuro-psychiatric Cases. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., September, 1930.) Schott, E. L.

The variability of mental ratings in adult neuro-psychiatric cases is much greater than that found in normal school-children. This was most marked in subjects with mental disturbance of psychotic degree. Age and level of I.Q. were not found to be important factors. Among the adult cases the women varied more than did the men; this observation was reversed for the children tested. The extent of variability is of value in determining the progress toward normality or increasing abnormality, and indicates the upward or downward trend of mental functioning.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Metabolic Rate in Emotional Moods Induced by Suggestion in Hypnosis. (Amer. Journ. Psychiat., January, 1930.) Whitehorn, J. C., Lundholm, H., and Gardner, G. E.

The authors' report some observations concerning the relation between emotion and metabolism. They have made records of the metabolic rate, pulse-rate, and respiration-rate in the post-hypnotic state in various subjects, tabulating their results.

They conclude that the mood of anxiety or apprehension hypnotically produced can increase the metabolic rate, and that moods of depression, elation and irritability do not produce any certain increase.

WM. MCWILLIAM.

Psychology and Hysteria. (Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., August, 1930.) Van der Hoop, J. H.

The author endeavours to divide hysterical conditions into groups, depending on the reaction between the psychism and the character type. He distinguishes five groups: (1) Those cases in which the psychism is of chief importance; (2) those in which hysterical reactions spring from a primitive form of mind; (3) those in which there is an interaction between psychism and extrovert adaptation; (4) those in which there is an interaction

between psychism and introverted feeling; and (5) those in which there is an expansion of the hysterical psychism by the influence of extroverted feeling. The author points out the importance of these aspects to the psycho-therapeutic approach.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Progress in Psychiatry. V: Eidetic Phenomena and Psycho-pathology.
(*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1930.) Wertham, F.

An eidetic image is midway between an after-image and a representation image. It was formerly believed that eidetic images only occurred in exceptional and distinctly pathological persons. The Jaensch school have shown that they are much more common. Kroh has shown that eidetic images occur more frequently in children than in adults. The eidetic disposition or the faculty of experiencing eidetic images may exist in childhood and disappear later, or may persist throughout life. In an eidetic person the after-images (1) last longer, (2) tend to be continuous and not fluctuating, (3) may have the original colour, and (4) may show variations in size. Two types of eidetic disposition are recognized. In the first type the images appear soon after fixation, tend to be rigid, and have the complementary colour, *i.e.*, they are nearer the form of an after-image. This is the T-type of Jaensch. In the second, or B-type, the images fluctuate, are easily influenced by associations, and are in the original colour, *i.e.*, they more nearly approach a representation image. Phenomena similar to eidetic images can occur during fatigue, fasting, emotional states, religious ecstasies and pregnancy. A latent eidetic disposition is also assumed when there are any deviations from the so-called Emmert's Law, according to which the size of the after-image grows proportionately to the distance of the eye of the observer from the projection screen. Several observers have found the greatest incidence of the eidetic disposition to be at the age of six, and more so in girls than in boys. W. Jaensch, brother of E. R. Jaensch, has developed a theory of the two types of eidetic imagery. The T-type he assumes is related to tetany. The individual with the T-type is over-excitabile to mechanical and galvanic stimuli; he is vagotonic, and his eidetic images can be made to disappear by giving him calcium, which has no influence in the B-type. His vegetative nervous system is more sensitive to somatic stimuli. Subjects with the B-type, or Basedow type, show mild hyperthyroid symptoms. The whole vegetative system is more susceptible to psychic stimulation. Eidetic phenomena occur in all the special senses, not only vision. Quercy thinks that hallucinations may originate from preoccupation with after-images. Jarkowska thinks that there is an inner relationship between thought-echo and eidetic images. The thought-echo is a phenomenon in which there is no clear distinction between a representation and a perception. In a study of 50 schizophrenic patients, Miskolczy and Schultz found the eidetic disposition more frequently among those who were hallucinated. The eidetic disposition