

neutropenia. He takes, however, as his normal limits for lymphocytes 18–22%—a very low figure. The eosinophils were increased in about 25% of cases, and decreased in about 20%. The basophils were normal in more than half the cases, decreased in about 36%. Myelocytes were scarce. The Arneth count was normal in only 30 cases out of the 171, was deviated to the right in 20, and to the left in 71%. The Schilling index behaved in a similar manner. The nuclear inversion of Velez (the ratio of nuclei with 3 lobes to those with 2, which is normally greater than unity) was present in 63% of cases. The blood changes were more marked in catatonia than in either hebephrenia or paranoid dementia præcox. In the latter disorder the blood changes become less marked as the disorder becomes more chronic.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Investigation of the Reticulo-Endothelial System in Schizophrenia [Esplorazione del sistema reticulo-endoteliale nella Schizofrenia]. (Riv. Sper. di Freniat., vol. lvii, p. 433, June, 1933.) Canziani, G.*

The author applied the Congo red method to 100 cases of schizophrenia. The normal "index of absorption" varies between 50–70. In severe toxic and infective conditions from 80–100% is recovered from the blood. The author found a normal index in 34% of cases, and an increased index in 66%. He compares his results with those of Meyer and Levi, both of whom found a much greater percentage between 70–100. He concludes that there is in schizophrenia a severe impairment of the reticulo-endothelial system.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Intestinal Factors in Dementia Præcox [Componenti enterogene della demenza precoce]. (Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., vol. xli, p. 483, May–June, 1933.) Buscatino, V. M.*

From a summary of 54 cases in the literature the author finds that enteritis was present as a factor in 53% of cases, gastritis in 50%, and colitis in 42%. In some cases there were zones of intense sclerosis of the mucosa, submucosa or sub-peritoneal coats.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Virus of Tuberculosis in Dementia Præcox. (L'Encéphale, vol. xxviii, p. 561, Sept.–Oct., 1933.) Claude, H., Coste, F., Valtis, J., and van Deinse, F.*

Having mentioned the considerable work done previously on the connection between tuberculosis and schizophrenia, the theory is put forward that the "intoxication" with the virus of tubercle may be responsible for psychic and psychomotor disorders along the lines of catatonia produced by bulbocapnine and other substances.

The lack of uniformity in the results of other workers in this field is regarded as being due to a failure to perceive that the schizophrenic reactions have no uniform ætiology, and that the hebephreno-catatonic type, more or less toxic in origin, differs in this respect from the schizoid states which are due in the main to psychic traumata.

Some space is given to the discussion of the findings of other workers, and to the discovery, or otherwise, of tuberculous lesions at autopsy.

It is stated that using suitable cases of the hebephreno-catatonic type, and investigating the serological status with the technique of Besredka, it has been established that tuberculosis and dementia præcox form a pair, but not that there is a bond of causality between them.

About 30 cases were examined. Serum and cerebro-spinal fluid were injected into guinea-pigs. Three pigs were used for each case; one was used as a control, and two were treated with an acetone extract of the bacillus.

Twelve cases yielded positive results. These are formulated as follows: The *Bacillus tuberculosis* was present in blood or cerebro-spinal fluid of 12 out of 19