

changes in the intercalary neurones, Mott says: "The affection of the stellate intercalary cells which enter into the synapse . . . suggests that a hypofunction or suspension of function of these neurones would lead to a synaptic dissociation and thereby account for psychic dissociation and the coming and going of symptoms; or where there is a permanent morbid change, to a suppression of their function with permanent dissociation."

In one of the cases (a monorchid) investigated by the author the suprarenal gland on the side of the absent testicle was found to weigh one-half that of the opposite side, and the cortex adrenalis was much diminished in quantity. This deficiency of the cortical lipoid substance was also observed in other cases of dementia præcox. These findings are significant in view of the fact that there is much evidence to show that the adrenal cortex influences the genital function, though it is not certain whether it acts alone or in conjunction with other endocrinic glands, *e.g.*, the thyroid and pituitary. Among the functions attributed to the suprarenal cortex are the manufacture of lipoids of the body and the building up of myelin of the nerve-fibres of the brain.

It is clear that the further investigation of the rôle played by the glands of internal secretion should not only prove to be of considerable scientific interest, but should, at the same time, be able to throw much light on the ætiology of dementia præcox.

NORMAN R. PHILLIPS.

Epidemic Encephalitis and Katatonic Symptoms. (The Amer. Journ. of Ins., January, 1920.) Bond, E. D.

The writer through illustrative cases points out the relationship of epidemic encephalitis to the katatonic psychoses, and propounds the plausibility of cerebral disturbance as a basis for katatonic episodes. There proved to be many features in common, and especially abnormalities of muscle function. He asks for a unified and definitive terminology, rendering possible the exact description of postures, tensions and other activities of muscle, as found, *e.g.*, in katatonia. No observer, however careful, can convey with the existent generalized vocabularies any exactitude of clinical visualization to the reader. Granting this as achieved, it is further essential that there should be methods of examination and diagnosis standardized in succinct fashion, so that the findings of various investigators can be relied on to express the same phenomena. Control and description of the surrounding circumstances is also necessary. He instances Langelan's method of recognising hypotonia as a case in point, while admitting that in the hands of different workers lack of thoroughness may result in this term being used for very varying degrees or even actually diverse conditions. He pleads for the institution in mental hospitals of conditions which will permit of thorough repeated examinations, even, be it noted, in long-standing chronic cases. And he foresees therefrom a rich harvest of reward. Mild transient but definite symptoms are usually missed in excited, seclusive, or indifferent patients. Obscure explanations are only justified, and should only be sought, when the above methods fail to elicit causation. He supports his contention by a graduated series

of cases where improvement or cure resulted from attention to simple pathological conditions, as oral sepsis, thyroid deficiency, and strabismus, also the use of lumbar puncture.

In three cases brain disturbance was located by cranial nerve involvement, in one by this and autopsy.

In general he stresses the essential sameness of the problems in all departments of medicine, as these cases of encephalitis would normally not have reached the purview of the psychiatrist, and their lesson would have passed unheeded.

J. GIFFORD.

6. Sociology.

The Movement for a Mental Hygiene of Industry. (*Mental Hygiene*, January, 1920.) Southard, E. E.

The writer refers to the work of the psychologists and neuro-psychiatrists in eliminating the feeble-minded from the American army, and to the establishment of morale officers. Such methods he would see applied to industry. He discerns a psychology of industry, using mental tests and scales; a psychiatry of industry, specialising in grievances; and a psychiatric social work in industry, tracking down the discharge, grievance and psychopathy problems outside the factory or mine. It will be advisable for large-scale plants to have part-time consultants, chosen from amongst the more able mature neuro-psychiatrists. Care must be exercised in the selection, for some of the professionally best of these men remain too analytic for the industrial situation and unable to see the values of rough-and-ready practical combinations which are the lot of employment managers and the minor executives. These consultants, if they once see the problem, can choose full-time younger medical aids, if such prove practically necessary. Employers are generally quite willing to employ psychopathic persons whose mental conditions and industrial efficiency are frankly described, and to retain them as long as they are able to do the work. Understood by their employers and taught to understand themselves, psychopathic individuals who would otherwise be thrown out of industry may keep their places as efficient employees. Mental hygiene as applied to industry is not a matter of efficiency alone or of welfare alone, but combines both aims.

SYDNEY J. COLE.

Should the Plea of Insanity as a Defence to an Indictment for Crime be Abolished? (*The Amer. Journ. of Ins.*, January, 1920.) Macdonald, C. F.

There are cited and discussed proposals made by a Committee of the New York Bar Association in a series of three reports on "The Commitment and Discharge of the Criminal Insane." They would relegate to the obsolete the assumption that an insane man cannot commit a crime, leaving to the petit jury one issue—"Did the accused do the forbidden deed?" They advocate the abolishment of the defence of insanity, which defence they deem sociologically wrong. They refrain from recommending legislation to effect so radical a change in the criminal law on the ground of the unreadiness of public