

seau's, Chvostek's or Hoffman's were constantly present. The author adopts the etiological classification of Frankl-Hochwart. The pathogenesis of tetany is still conjectural, but in one of the cases in this series there was found evidence of abnormal activity of the cells of the parathyroid gland, a suggestive finding.

C. D. CAMP (Philadelphia).

RESEARCHES ON THE BLOOD OF EPILEPTICS. By B. Onuf, M.D., and Horace Lograsso, M.D. (The Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sciences, February, 1906).

The study of the formed elements of the blood was carried out on one patient, a hystero-epileptic colored man. It was found that a leucocytosis may be present directly before a seizure and is then, of course, not a purely secondary phenomenon produced by the seizure. A grand mal seizure need not necessarily be preceded or ushered in by a leucocytosis. There is no absolute parallelism between seizure and leucocytosis in so far as, even when a distinct leucocytosis is present, such may reach its height at different periods in different seizures. The leucocytosis is in part at least independent of the seizures.

C. D. CAMP (Philadelphia).

ABSCESS OF THE BRAIN, WITH A REPORT OF FIVE CASES. By H. F. Stoll, M.D. (The Amer. Jour. of the Med. Sciences, February, 1906).

Five cases are reported in detail and a general review is given of the course, symptoms, diagnosis and differential diagnosis of the disease. The interesting feature of the first case is the etiology, which is considered to have been a slight trauma to the head. The second was metastatic, the primary focus being in the lung. In the fourth case, abscess of the right temporo-sphenoidal lobe, the patient lost the use of English and was able to understand only Swedish, his mother tongue. The treatment recommended is a prompt operation when the diagnosis is "reasonably certain."

C. D. CAMP (Philadelphia).

GENIUS AND DEGENERATION. By H. Edwin Lewis (The Alienist and Neurologist, February, 1906).

Genius—stated to be the capacity for spontaneous imagination, or imagination *de novo*, therefore unreal.

Talent—is skilful technique, applied to material or pre-existing things, and is essentially real. As geniuses, Poe, Whitman, Rembrandt and Wagner are contrasted with Shakespeare, Tennyson, Goethe, Holmes, Bonheur, Alma Tadema, Sargent, Reynolds, Beethoven, Gounod, considered talented. Genius is thought to be evidence of a degenerate and unhealthy mental state, exhibited by the former ones mentioned, in certain of their productions, also by their varied erratic or insane characteristics, and manners of life. As a preventative measure of possible mental retrogression, the cultivation of more healthful tastes in literature, art and music is urged, particularly in the training of young minds.

J. E. CLARK (New York).

GENERAL CONDITIONS AND INSANITY. By H. A. Tomlinson (Journal A. M. A., March 17).

The author emphasizes the importance of general pathologic conditions, especially of general metabolism, in insanity. "Mental aberration," he says, "in its clinical and pathologic aspects, has to do primarily with the potentiality of the nervous organization of the individual, and secondarily, with the perverted or defective processes of metabolism, as they affect the nutrition of the nervous system. In other words, we have to recognize that the degenerative process which makes mental aberration apparent is primarily a general one, affecting the vegetative functions." An analysis of the record of the patients received at the St. Peter's Hospital during the past nine years is used to illustrate his argument, and he concludes from all the data