

AUTHORS' ABSTRACTS.

Medicine.

Causes of Insanity and Its Prevention. By Chas. L. Gregory, Greenville, Texas. Pan-American Surgical and Medical Journal, February, 1915, pp. 15-18.

The author believes that proper care and treatment for the mentally sick can only be had in a properly equipped sanatorium devoted exclusively to such cases. In acute cases confinement in bed is desirable. For insomnia, mental or motor excitement give duboisin, 1-100 grain hypodermatically or hyoscine hydrobromate, 1-100. Hot bath from thirty to sixty minutes often effectual. Early treatment essential. During six years at Pavilion Sanitarium, New York, of 1,038 cases only 183 finally sent to insane hospitals. Remainder resumed vocations. Causes: First, alcohol, a stimulant poison; second, heredity and syphilis. Several instances of inherited insanity through successive generations. Syphilis is the cause of 75 to 80 per cent of paretics and 95 per cent of locomotor ataxia.

There are in state hospitals for insane 10,000 young men from "sowing wild oats." At the door of every saloon and immoral resort might truthfully be written: **Incurable Insanity May be Contracted Here.** As a preventive of insanity sterilization, carefully regulated by law, is recommended. Much good can be done by segregation of every case of defective mind or body. If the germ plasms inherited from father and mother are vitiated and below par, the resultant being cannot be hale, physically and mentally. We must overcome the alarming prevalence of unsoundness of mind. Provide that children be born with sound bodies and brains. The masses must be educated by lectures. Segregate the unfit and restrain their marriage by law. Sterilize all subjects suffering with insanity and habitual drunkenness.

Studies in Fat Indigestion. By C. H. Dunn, Boston, Mass. American Journal of Diseases of Children, March, 1915.

The cases studied at the Infants' Hospital were those which showed a marked intolerance of cow's milk fat, manifesting itself by showing signs either of failure of fat absorption, or failure of digestion, or of both. Chronic disease, particularly tuberculosis, was found associated with these cases with marked frequency. In the study of previous feeding, overfeeding with carbohydrate was found the history, rather than overfeeding with fat. We can only, to a very slight extent, successfully compensate for deficient power to digest and absorb fat by increasing carbohydrate or protein. The microchemical examination of the stools for fat is indispensable for the proper management of these cases. In general babies who cannot gain weight on a certain percentage of fat with lactose can gain better on the same percentage of fat when maltose is substituted. The use of maltose does not actually increase the power of digesting and absorbing fat. As to the relative values of precipitated casein and unmodified protein in these cases, the evidence was contradictory and not conclusive. Fat

"blowups" occurred with the same quantity of fat in cases where both forms of protein were successfully used. Some cases did better with precipitated casein, but in no case did its use show clear evidence of increasing the power of digesting and absorbing fat.

In general the milk modifications used must be low in fat, average in carbohydrate, comparatively high in protein. The extra sugar should be maltose. Severe resistant cases can only be saved by human milk.

Radioactivity of Mineral Waters of Hot Springs and Warm Springs and Healing Springs in Hot Springs, Va. By J. C. Hemmeter and E. Zueblin, Baltimore, Md. Archives of Internal Medicine, February, 1915.

Brings short review of different natural, artificial radiations (rad. act minerals, waters, gas, air) technic for detection, calculation of radioactivity, own technic adopted for waters (at spring itself, bottled, in laboratory, after standing) sediments, gas etc.; comparison with other quantitative analyses, domestic and abroad. Writers emphasize necessity of very careful technic, no slipshod method reliable, only personal training and thoroughness give satisfactory results, particularly in determination of radioactive gas by complex method. Rapid loss of emanation inevitable, even when all precautions taken in collecting sample (No. 12-13, 85, 6 per cent in 6), necessity patient must consume water immediately at spring itself, transportation means quick loss. Results from 203 tests, observed thirty minutes and longer. Comparison of examined spas with Hot Springs, Ark., and most of renowned European springs favorable in; some instances higher figures detected in Hot Springs, Va., than Kissingen, Nauheim, Kreuznach, Carlsbad, Baden Baden, even than Gasthein. Only three European spas are stronger than Hot Springs, Ark., and Hot Springs, Va., so Magnesia Spring, Va. 280 M-U. (1000 cc.) Swimming pool, Warm Springs, equals 13 milligr. Rad. salt, several millions M-U. Bathhouse swimming pool Hot Springs equivalent to 203 milligram Rad. salt. Remarkable results of treatment attested by physicians by this method could be so explained. Overdose of radioactive spring treatment harmful (therapeutic indi and contraindications. See Zueblin's Monograph, Md. Medic. J., 1914. LVII, 5-6) medical, individual supervision absolutely necessary.

Functional Changes in Experimental Hydronephrosis. By N. M. Keith and R. R. Snowden, Baltimore, Md., April 2, 1915. Archives of Internal Medicine, February, 1915.

Hydronephrosis was produced in dogs by a slender rubber band about the ureter 3 cm from its entrance into the bladder. This was found sufficient to produce a partial ureteral obstruction, resulting in the development of an intraureteral pressure of 20-30 cm of water. In every case so treated a true hydronephrosis developed, with dilated, torturous ureter, dilated kidney pelvis, and dilated renal tubules. All such kidneys were, in time, enlarged and oedematous and