Periscope

Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie

Abstracted by Dr. J. W. Moore, Beacon, N. Y.

(Vol. 36, No. 4, October, 1914)


1. Brain Abscess.—An abscess of the brain developed subsequent to a suppurring condition of a finger which had been injured. The latter had nearly healed. The abscess in the brain occupied nearly the whole frontal lobe.

2. Psychoanalysis.—A dissertation on the theories and methods of the Freud school and a discussion of their criticisms, together with a survey of their medico-legal relations. The possibility of misuse of psychoanalysis, the danger of more harm than good coming from the procedure and the opportunities for scandal arising from the intimate character of the conversations necessary are not forgotten. The advisability of legal restrictions upon the practice of psychoanalysis is mentioned, but even its opponents are averse to this. The author concludes that the relationship of psychoanalysis to medico-legal procedures is only indirect. Psychoanalysis, with enthusiastic overestimation of its value on the one hand and narrow-minded criticism on the other eliminated, is a valuable addition to scientific medicine.

3. Heredity and Physical Degeneration.—It is pointed out that statistics on the hereditary influences in insanity have been compiled without adequate investigation of healthy normal individuals for control. The author examined systematically 507 insane cases and 499 normal persons. The following points were noted and tabulated as to the antecedents—insanity, organic nervous disorders, alcoholism, tuberculosis and epilepsy. Neuroses, syphilis and trauma were omitted, so that the findings cannot be regarded as representing an investigation of all the important hereditary influences. The author found only 10 per cent. more hereditary taint in the mental cases than in the normal. Insanity in the antecedents, however, was 14.9 per cent. in the insane cases as against 3 per cent. in the normal. Apoplexy and other organic nervous disorders were more frequent (9.2 per cent. to 3.5 per cent.) in the normal than in the insane. Tuberculosis and epilepsy were about as frequent in one as in the other. Physical stigmata of degeneration were so nearly identical in frequency and degree in the insane and normal cases that they cannot be said to have any significance.

4. Paranoic States.—An extended history of a case of manic-depressive insanity with persecutory and other paranoic delusions. In a discussion of the diagnosis the greatest emphasis is laid upon the affectivity which was manifest even at first. The patient was predominantly depressed and had a feeling of perplexity alternating with hopelessness.
PERISCOPE.

(No. 5, November, 1914)

2. The Presence and Significance of Gland-like Formations in the Cortex. (Spheroctrichia.) A. Schoenfeld.

1. Extremity Regions of the Cortex.—Animal experiments were undertaken to redetermine the motor divisions of the cortex in the light of our newer knowledge of the cell-structures of the cortical substance. Extirpations were done in dogs and apes with results that must change some of our older views and which explain some of the hitherto little-understood phenomena. In the dog, behind the motor area for the extremities mapped out by Munk is a zone for deep sensibility—for the fore-leg in the gyrus suprasylvius; for the hind-leg in the gyrus marginalis. In apes the supramarginal gyrus to which Munk ascribed visual function belongs to the arm region while the gyrus angularis is associated with vision. Extirpation of the posterior central gyrus alone causes, besides weakness and ataxia, a transitory direction-disorder of the opposite arm. Ablation of the supramarginal gyrus also causes more severe disturbance of the sense of direction and disorder of the skin- and muscle-sense. The inactivity of the opposite arm after extirpation of the post-central gyrus, as well as the restitution of some movements after extirpation of the anterior central, shows the presence of motor elements in the former. In the anterior central gyrus the motor zone extends far anterior to the arm area as determined by electrical reaction. Drawings and photographs illustrate the article.

2. Gland-like Formations.—The article deals with the minute formations in the senile cortex which have been investigated by O. Fischer, Alzheimer and others and which have received various names,—"senile plaques," "senile bodies," "gland-like bodies," "spheroctrichæ." The author's material comprises 115 cases—a fairly large number for study by the rather time-consuming Bielschowsky method. The cases were of all ages and all types of psychosis. The plaques were found in twenty-two cases. Of these, eight were cases of presbyophrenia, five had a few presbyophrenic symptoms, two showed simple senile dementia, two had chorea, two had no apparent psychosis and three were under observation too short a time to arrive at a definite diagnosis. The author concludes that the spherotrichia of Fischer is a quite characteristic picture in senile brains, occurring predominantly between the ages of sixty and eighty—never before fifty. They are always found in presbyophrenia but are not, as Fischer has held, pathognomonic of that condition.

3. Narrative Repetition in Pseudologia Phantastica.—The investigation was based upon the work of Köppen and Kutzinski whose monograph "Systematische Beobachtungen über die Wiedergabe kleiner Erzählungen bei Geisteskranken" was reviewed in this journal in 1911. The few cases of pseudologia phantastica examined showed a strong tendency to the addition of new sentences to the narrative and to marked distortion of the content while still preserving coherence. The same short tales were used that are given by Köppen and Kutzinski.

4. Luminal in Epilepsy.—Friedlaender claims priority in the use of this agent for epilepsy and calls Grzywo-Dybowski to task for giving the credit, in his article in the last number of the Monatsschrift, to Hauptmann.
1. Cauda Tumors with the Picture of Ischiadic or Lumbo-sacral Neuralgia.
   H. Oppenheim.
3. The Fasciculus Corporis Callosi Cruciatus. (Crossed Corpus Callosum—
   Corona Radiata Bundle.) N. von Mayendorf.
4. Psychiatry in the War. K. Bonhoeffer.
5. Tetany Symptoms During and After Dysentery (from the Neurological
   Division at the Eastern War Front). M. Löwy.

1. Cauda Tumor.—Two cases are described. The first was of seven
   years' duration when first observed by the author but even then the symptoms
   were only such as could be produced by a double ischiadic neuritis. The
   pain was so severe and the patient showed such prostration that affection of
   the cauda equina was suspected. Lumbar puncture showed enormous in-
   crease in albumin but no increased cell content. The color of the fluid was
   yellow. Operation disclosed a diffuse soft tumor of the dura which proved
   microscopically to be fibro-sarcoma. It was impossible to remove the mass
   and the patient died about two months later. The second case had lasted
   for four years and had presented only symptoms of lumbo-sacral neuralgia.
   Laminecetomy disclosed a large circumscribed benign tumor which was ex-
   cised and the patient ultimately recovered. The cases show that a protracted
   neuralgia of the ischiadic or crural region, which resists all treatment and
   increases in severity, is to be regarded in the light of its possibly being due
   to a tumor.

2. Hereditary Syphilis.—A congenitally syphilitic boy of twelve years
   died with symptoms of a syphilitic meningeal affection. A diffuse gummatous
   material was found between the dura and pia and quite sharply defined from
   these membranes. The process was most marked in the right temporal re-
   gion. Beside this chronic productive process there was a fresh inflamma-
   tory reaction as shown by an extensive round-cell infiltration in and beneath
   the dura. In the cortical substance itself was found to an enormous extent
   a degeneration with total loss of all nervous elements. The contour of the
   brain surface was not changed and the altered structure was a mass of glious
   tissue. In the depths this tissue took a good glia stain but the stain faded
   toward the periphery until at the outer margin there was scarcely any color.
   The author believes the changes were due to a mechanical cause rather than
   to the luetic toxine—that the pressure on the lymph spaces and blood-vessels
   by the gummatous meningitis produced an edema of the brain substance with
   subsequent degeneration. The article is illustrated by colored photo-
   micrographs.

3. Fasciculus Corporis Callosi Cruciatus.—In several preparations from
   a brain in which a great part of the right frontal lobe and right anterior cen-
   tral gyrus were destroyed together with the marrow beneath, the author
   demonstrates a definite degeneration in the left hemisphere of a tract known
   as the crossed callosum—corona radiata bundle. Much of the article is taken
   up with a review of previous literature showing the confusion and misinter-
   pretation which has surrounded this area. The author claims only to show
   that the tract exists, as it is impossible in a Weigert preparation to trace it
   further or to allow a surmise as to its destination.

4. Psychiatry in the War.—This article, written during the first few
   months of the war, deals chiefly with the mental disorders developing while
   the army was mobilizing. Out of 100 officers and men declared incapacitated
   for this cause 53 were persons of psychopathic constitution. The reason for
   this is probably that the recruiting brings together many psychopathic indi-
   viduals who in spite of their abnormality have been able to get along during
times of peace, but who during the excitement and anxiety attending the mobilization show emotional and other disturbances. These persons, even if they are placed in hospitals and recover from their episodes, are prone to become upset again if they return to the front. It is better then to keep them permanently away from the firing line. Several charts are given showing the statistics of various armies as to mental disease. In each army where the country has been at war at any time there is a marked increase in insanity. A striking fact, however, is that the greatest increase comes at the end of the war and during a year or two following. This is due to several circumstances. Probably one important reason is that more careful examination and elimination is possible after the war than during it when there are so many other things of more pressing moment to attend to.

5. *Tetany and Dysentery.*—The author, an Austrian medical officer at the eastern front, observed numerous cases of dysentery accompanied by tetany. The affection did not occur with other forms of illness. Most cases occurred in the fall during the cold, rainy weather. The literature does not appear to show previous reference to the association of these two diseases.

Journal of Mental Science

Abstracted by Dr. W. C. Sandy, Middletown, Conn.

(Vol. LXI, No. 254)

1. Sir Thomas Smith Clouston—Obituary.
2. Study of Character by the Dramatists and Novelists. F. W. Mott.
5. Catatonic Dementia Præcox. G. Dunlop Robertson.

1. *Sir Thomas Smith Clouston.*—A sketch and estimation of this great administrator and teacher. An asylum superintendent at the age of twenty-three years, he was a “most shining example of the justification of the medical management of institutions for the insane.” In his lectures and writings he aimed to elevate psychiatry into an honorable place in the medical curriculum and to remove the stigma attached in the public mind to the incidence of an attack of insanity. His writings and teachings were characterized by a simplicity, a return to which, in the opinion of the writer of this obituary, would result in no small benefit to the specialty.

2. The Study of Character.—Mott shows, by references to novelists and dramatists, how well character is delineated and passions exhibited especially in the writings of Shakespeare.

3. Meningo-vascular Syphilis.—Stewart records a case of meningo-vascular syphilis with a retro-salivary syndrome, going into the post mortem findings in great detail. Among other lesions were found a thrombus of the left posterior inferior cerebellar artery (that of the right side being apparently absent) and a destructive lesion in the medulla behind the inferior olive, involving fibers of sensation in the formatio reticularis and the descending root of the fifth nerve on the same side. The latter resulted in crossed anesthesia of the syringomyelic type affecting the limbs of the trunk accompanied by anesthesia on the same side of the face. In his analysis of the case, the writer correlates each symptom with its pathological basis.

4. Anger.—Hyslop epitomizes his dissertation on “anger” as follows: (1) Anger, as traced throughout the scale of evolution of the animal king-