

It gradually rose during the first hour about  $0.6^{\circ}$ , then gradually fell about  $0.8^{\circ}$ . Suggestion during the waking state caused a decrease in the volume of the arm, as the plethysmographic tracing demonstrated; this was followed by an increase. 'A pronounced and increasing vaso-constriction in the arm during most of the sleep-period' was then the most positive and suggestive result obtained.

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### PATHOLOGICAL.

*Les causes psychologiques de l'aboulie.* BARON C. MOURRE. Rev. Phil., L., 3. September, 1900. Pp. 276-285.

M. Mourre considers aboulia the inability to transform an idea into its act as the consequence or product of victory among antagonistic ideas. The aboulic person is conscious that she wishes to do a thing, and at the same time quite aware that she does not do it. Opposed to the motor idea is always its inhibitory opposite, and it is this latter tendency that triumphs. Why it triumphs the greater part of this brief article attempts to explain.

The causes of 'psychic paralyses' the author deems of two sorts. Some of them arise in ideas of acts different from those intended by the agent. Others, on the other hand, arise in the fear of the subject that she will be 'paralyzed' if she attempts the act. Of the latter class, in part, are cases of aboulia, the patient realizing and fearing her infirmity. In true aboulia the agent considers her will free, and she fails to act because she chooses not to act, on account of her fear of failure. But this association by contrast is not the sole nor primary cause of aboulia. There is, second, a diminution of the sensations and of the desires, making the pleasurable motogenic balance smaller than in normal organisms. The causes of this diminution, or even loss, of desires to action are almost always contrarieties, chagrins which occasion a profound moral depression, making life distasteful. This state is by no means incompatible with an excess of emotional activity, as is frequently experienced by those who have to do with this class of mental derangement. But effort seems useless, because its usual rewards are absent.

"The psychological cause of aboulia will be then the difficulty of voluntary effort, and the physiological cause an organic trouble of the brain of which the localization is unknown." Although no novelty, such an explanation has a certain usefulness and probably much of the truth in it so far as it goes.

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