THREE CASES OF INVOLUTION-MELANCHOLIA.

By Drs. Southard and Mitchell.

These cases displayed in life feelings of unreality, nihilistic delusions and various other signs which tended to mark them as approximating the features of Cotard's syndrome. The readers did not insist that the characteristic feelings of unreality displayed by these victims of melancholia are never found in patients subject to disease other than melancholia.

The cases discussed were those of a clerk, aged forty-eight; a mason, age seventy-five, and a shoemaker, age sixty-five. The assignable causes were: in the clerk, financial worry; in the mason, senility and domestic worry; in the shoemaker, nothing. All three cases showed more or less arteriosclerosis. The alcoholic and venereal histories were practically negative. The mothers of two patients had suffered at the close of life with continuous depressions. All cases showed ideas of negation, developing in the clerk after slight increase of depression and agitation, with delusions about self and family; in the mason, after gradual senile failure; in the shoemaker, after a slowly developing hypochondria. The senile case made a suicidal attempt.

The most remarkable feature of the autopsies in these cases was the practically normal character of the brains when examined microscopically. The visible arteriosclerosis was confined in all cases to the large branches of the circle of Willis. The senile case showed a small old cyst of softening in the occipital region, the shoemaker showed a mild chronic exudative process.

The brains gave little evidence of general or focal atrophy. No striking alterations in topography or arrangement in layers were detected microscopically. Perivascular pigmentation was found and was attributed by the readers to the results of advancing years rather than of a special factor. Common to all three cases was a neuroglia cell pigmentation in intermediate layers of the cortex. Satellite cell pigmentation was not constantly found. Nerve cell pigmentation was constantly found in the elements of moderate size in all parts of the cortex examined. This pigmentation was strikingly brought out by use of Heidenhain's iron hematoxylin stain. The larger elements failed to show this characteristic pigmentation. The interest of the work, according to the readers, lodged in the somewhat peculiar topographical distribution of the pigment and its absence in the larger elements related with the projection system. The readers promised further work on melancholia.

BRIEF REPORT OF THREE CASES PRESENTING THE FEELING OF UNREALITY (COTARD'S SYNDROME).

By Dr. Harry W. Miller.

Dr. Miller said he wished to offer in as brief a manner as possible a few types illustrating the Cotard Syndrome or a feeling of unreality involving the different fields of consciousness; namely, the consciousness relating to the outside world, the physical and the mental personality, designated respectively by Wernicke as the *allopsychic*, the *somapsychic* and the *autopsychic* fields.

It was his intention to summarize those cases in which he had observed the feeling of unreality as present in any degree of intensity.