Experimental Researches with the Method of Fractional Exhaustion of the Antibody of Anti-sera in order to show the existence of Abnormal Specific Substances in the Blood-serum of the Insane [*Ricerche sperimentali condotte col metodo dell' esaurimento frazionato del potere anticorpo degli antisieri al fine di dimostrare la esistenza di principi abnormali specifici nel siero di sangue dei malati di mente*]. [*Rass. di Studi Psich.*, vol. i, Fasc. 5.) Gardi, I., and Prigione, F.

In a case of general paralysis and another of maniacal-depressive insanity the authors' investigations led them to conclude that no abnormal specific substances existed in the blood-sera.

J. H. MACDONALD.

Experimental Researches on the Mechanism and Value of the Anti-hæmolytic Action displayed by the Blood-serum of the Insane [*Ricerche sperimentali sul meccanismo e sul valore dell' azione antiemolitica esplicata dal siero di sangue degli alienati*]. (*Rass. di Studi Psich.*, vol. i, Fasc. 5.) Gardi, I., and Prigione, F.

The authors' investigations lead them to conclude that the anti-hæmolytic action of blood-sera in the insane depends on the quantity of serum examined and also on the density of the medium in which the test is made. Every serum has its optimum degree of dilution which will prevent the anti-hæmolytic action. This anti-hæmolytic property can be corrected by hypersensitising the red blood-corpuscles or by employing a suitable multiple of the alexin unity. There would seem to exist an antagonism between the complementary function of the alexin and the anti-hæmolytic action of the serum introduced in the reaction, so that this action might be interpreted as anti-complementary. The authors are of opinion that both in the case of the sera of the insane and in inactivated normal sera the anti-complementary phenomenon is to be attributed to the "complementoid."

J. H. MACDONALD.

On the Clinical Value of Ehrlich's Diazo-Reaction in the Insane [*Sul valore clinico della diazoreazione di Ehrlich nei malati di mente*]. (*Ann. di Neurolog.*, anno xxix, Fasc. 4.) Cascella, P.

The author states that according to the most likely hypothesis the diazo-reaction is indicative of an intense breaking-down process in the organism affecting the albuminoid substances, and that in the insane it is to be regarded as an index of disturbed proteid metabolism. He is of opinion that the metabolic disturbance does not result from the anatomical lesions in the cerebrum, considered by themselves, but is the consequence of those causes, presumably toxic, which have given rise to the mental affection. In all, 485 men and 265 women, representing fifteen varieties of insanity after Kraepelin's classification, were made the subject of inquiry. The results are displayed in tabular form for each psychosis and clinical notes given of those cases in which the reaction was positive. Two categories of cases were recognised; those in whom a positive reaction seemed to be related with the mental affection itself, and those in whom the existence of an accidental bodily disease (tuberculosis, chronic bronchitis, cardiac and intestinal disease, etc.)

BJPpsych

The British Journal of Psychiatry

Experimental Researches with the Method of Fractional Exhaustion of the Antibody of Anti-sera in order to show the existence of Abnormal Specific Substances in the Blood-serum of the Insane [Ricerche sperimentali condotte col metodo dell' esaurimento frazionato del potere anticorpo degli antisieri al fine di dimostrare la esistenza di principi abnormi specifici nel siero di sangue dei malati di mente]. [Rass. di Studi Psych., vol. i, Fasc. 5.) Gardi, I., and Prigione, F.

J. H. MacDonald
BJP 1912, 58:367.

Access the most recent version at DOI: [10.1192/bjp.58.241.367](https://doi.org/10.1192/bjp.58.241.367)

References

This article cites 0 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
<http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/58/241/367.1.citation#BIBL>

Reprints/ permissions

To obtain reprints or permission to reproduce material from this paper, please write to permissions@rcpsych.ac.uk

You can respond to this article at

[/letters/submit/bjprcpsych;58/241/367](https://bjp.rcpsych.org/letters/submit/bjprcpsych;58/241/367)

Downloaded from

<http://bjp.rcpsych.org/> on March 17, 2016
Published by The Royal College of Psychiatrists