Heinicke, W. PSYCHOGENIC SPASMS AND NERVE INJURIES. [Neurol. Centralbl., 1918, 37, 350.]

In this account of a case of injury to the musculo-spinal nerve Heinicke raises a very practical question which should be kept constantly before the minds of those who have to deal with cases of recovering peripheral nervous lesions consequent upon war injuries. A psychological element added to a gross organic lesion causes spasms in the antagonist muscles and thus frequently delays the rate of recovery; this element is fairly easily corrected if its presence be suspected, but too frequently this added factor is missed, and thereby much misapplied therapeutic effort results.

Göpfert, J. PSYCHOGENETIC DEAFNESS AND UNCONSCIOUS HEARING. [Deut. med. Woch., Nov. 14, 1918.]

Göpfert gives details of a series of tests to determine the conditions of the auditory functions in simulators and true psychopaths. The patient sings to a piano accompaniment. The pianist then changes the key (from one-half to one tone or more) and if the singer is not really deaf, he is carried along by his singing and changes to the key given by the piano. Playing with varying intensities helps to estimate the degree of dysacusia in a subject having an incomplete deafness.

Mörchen. HYSTERICS AND WAR NEUROSES. [Berl. klin. Wchnschr., 1917, 54, Nr. 51.]

Mörchen here deals with the significance in a diagnosis of the term "Hysterical" as applied to the description of a series of manifestations, and states that its use be allowed in the description of all somatic-functional disturbances of psychological origin. Manifestations of this character can occur both when careful examination reveals no certain signs of anatomicopathological interference, and when such an examination reveals definite evidence of organic nervous or visceral disease. In both groups of cases psychotherapeutic treatment will effect a subsidence of the manifestations of psychological origin, but in the two groups of cases the prognosis will differ materially. The diagnosis of a certain set of manifestations as of functional origin should therefore demand a more complete examination of the patient and urgent treatment by psychotherapeutic means.

Herrero, A. S. HYSTERICAL ANESTHESIA. [Siglo Med., Nov. 23, 1918.]

That persons under extreme excitement, profound emotion, may not feel pain from wounds is a well-known, though frequently forgotten fact. Pain is not registered, but is completely registered in consciousness. Herrero uses the idea of an endocosmos, speaking of the personality blocked as to the capacity to take in peripheral stimuli. His article contains no real new contribution.