of the course. Weekly intramuscular injections of mercury were also given in both series. [Author's abstract.]

III. SYMBOLIC NEUROLOGY

1. NEUROSES-PSYCHONEUROSES.

Wirschubski, A. A CASE OF POLYDIPSIA AS A VARIETY OF "HYSTERIA MONOSYMPTOMATICA." [Neurol. Centralbl., April 16, 1918, No. 8, Vol. 37.]

Polydipsia or pathological thirst is a symptom which accompanies various diseases, as, high fever, diabetes mellitus and insipidus, localized diseases of the brain, diseases of the hypophysis, psychoses, etc. Oppenheim and Bing have mentioned this symptom among the numerous ones of hysteria. The author thinks a case observed by him in which polydipsia was the only distinct symptom of hysteria may be of interest. A thirty-year-old Jewess, a widow, of robust appearance and good health suddenly began to suffer from pathological thirst, drinking from thirty to forty glasses of water in twenty-four hours. When the patient came under the author's observation no signs of physical disease could be found. After two weeks' treatment in a sanatorium without result the origin of her disease was found to be hysterical. She took her physician into her confidence, telling him that some weeks before she had begun relations with a man and had become pregnant. Because of the social blame that would follow revelation of her condition she was under great emotional stress. It could be easily understood that this extremely intense emotional moment had produced an acute hysteria in the peculiar form of polydipsia. Three physicians concurred in the opinion that it would be advisable to interrupt the pregnancy in order to remove the psychic trauma to which the neurosis was due. This step was taken and seven days after the operation the patient left the sanatorium fully recovered.

Heinicke, W. PSYCHOGENIC SPASMS OF THE ANTAGONISTS AS HINDRANCE TO RECOVERY FROM PERIPHERAL PARALYSIS DUE TO A SHELL WOUND. [Neurol. Centralbl., May 16, 1918, No. 10, Vol. 37.]

The author's patient was wounded near the elbow by a splinter from a shell, as result of which there was a paralysis of the radial nerve. A few weeks after the suture of the nerve movements in the paralyzed region could be carried out but the recovery of the power of motion to a certain extent remained stationary. It was found that only the hand extensors and the supinators reacted, while the extensor digitorum communis innervated by the radial nerve together with the extensor indicis and extensor minimi digiti and the thumb muscles could not be brought into activity in spite of all the patient's efforts. There was every indication that the difficulty was not due to any physical inadequacy in the

radial region. The solution of the problem was at last found. A psychogenic radial paralysis had been superimposed on the original organic paralysis. The therapy consisted in first assuring the patient that he would not be called upon to return to the front for some time, because it is a fact of experience that the subconscious horror belli very often prevents a cure of psychogene symptoms. Electrical and suggestive treatment was then applied with the result that in a few weeks the patient had fully recovered and was able to return to the front. The author in his further experience met with similar cases where recovery was hindered by contractions of the antagonists after peripheral paralysis due to gun shot wounds, especially where the paralysis was in the radial region.

Klaus, O. HYSTERIA IN AN INFANT. [Wien. klin. Woch., October 23, 1919.]

A 3-year-old boy is here reported upon. He returned home one day from picking fruit to find that his mother had given birth to a child a few hours earlier. At first the boy was well and cheerful; half an hour later he collapsed on the floor, with limbs and head flaccid, and eyes closed except at short intervals. Now and then spasmodic contractions of certain muscles were observed. The author arrived to find nine women wailing over him. For thirty-six hours the child had not eaten or spoken, but he had occasionally screamed. There were incoordinated movements of the limbs, and he did not respond in any way when spoken to. It transpired that two years earlier a child had died in the family on the same day that another had been born, and that a year earlier the birth of yet another child had occurred on the day that the 1-year-old child had developed cerebro-spinal meningitis, of which it died a few days later. These two extraordinary coincidences had been discussed in the hearing of the patient.

Gordon, R. G. HYSTERICAL COMPLICATIONS OF RHEUMATISM. [Edinburgh Medical Journal, October, 1919.]

The word rheumatism is used much too loosely. The only true justification for the term is acute rheumatism or rheumatic fever. In the army myalgia was used to designate other conditions but this became as loose a term as the former. Under this head were included all forms of fibrositis and arthritis. The diagnosis of the former is only justified by the discovery of nodules and fibrous thickenings which give rise to localized pain and tenderness, and of the latter by swelling and roughness or grating indicative of changes in the synovial fluid and surfaces. Both in military and civilian practice many cases occur in whom these signs are not found, but who complain of pain and stiffness. These should be regarded as hysterical and the product of suggestion. In the majority of cases the suggestion has been given by the presence of a