

assenting to Wohlwill's view that the anesthetics are not passive but active, not a too little, but a too much, not an exclusion of the sense stimuli from consciousness, but an active repression of the sensations felt in consciousness, would make one correction, namely that the sensations are not repressed at all but simply denied.

Chavigny. THE MENTAL STOMACH. [Paris Méd., Dec. 27, 1919, J. A. M. A.]

Chavigny declares that we digest with our brains as well as with our stomachs. Gastric digestion is cerebral in large part, and cases of uncontrollable vomiting should be classed as mental dyspepsia, and be treated by psychiatrists after gastro-intestinal specialists have diagnosed the case. He remarks that psychiatrists will realize their finest successes in the *rééducation psychique de ces petits mentaux*. Most of the patients who seek the stomach specialists cherish special fads in regard to eating whole wheat bread or other special diet, or going barefoot, or they have other odd hobbies. It is remarkable, he exclaims, how persons in this category often do well on a diet that a normal person might have difficulty in digesting. He adds that the surgeon must beware of the operative adventures to which this class of patients often seek to entice him. The recent tragic death of Pozzi and of Guinard should warn to refuse to these *petits aliénés* with *troubles cénesthésiques* the operations for which they sometimes clamor. Soldiers with this "mental dyspepsia" should be given rapid mental retraining, with gymnastic exercises and military discipline. In one of the typical cases related, the relapse under emotional stress or extra responsibility confirmed the psychic element involved. The lack of any modification after a useless appendectomy, and the practically normal gastric chemistry testified that the uncontrollable vomiting in the previously healthy officer of 33 was of this nervous dyspepsia type, but more psychic than anatomically nervous.

Williams, T. A. THE EMOTIONS AND THEIR MECHANISM IN WARFARE. [Journal of Abnormal Psychology, April-July, 1919.]

The allegation has been made that the emotional strain of the war is the direct cause of functional disturbances of long duration among the soldiers. Statistics gathered at the French army centers do not bear out this statement. They show that a relatively small number of men apart from those having organic disease or toxic condition show nervous perturbation. The number of emotional cases are very small in comparison with the definitely hysterical and rapidly curable cases. Moreover patients of the emotional type are able to remain at the front without greater inconvenience than they would experience in civil life, provided they are not given responsibilities beyond their ability to bear.

One must remember that in severe states of fear, physical signs such