

# Monatsschrift für Psychiatrie und Neurologie

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1. The Question of the Sensibility Paths in the Human Spinal Cord. H. FABRITIUS.
2. Tabes in Women. K. MENDEL and E. TOBIAS.
3. Carcinoma Metastases in the Cerebellum. P. GIRARDI.
4. Head Measurements in Congenital and Developed Mental Disorders. H. KRUEGER. •

1. *Sensory Paths*.—A continued article, to be reviewed at its conclusion.

2. *Tabes in Women*.—Upon a basis of a material of about forty cases of tabes in women the authors have compiled a sort of monograph on the subject, comprising an historical review and chapters on relation to syphilis, incubation period, other etiological factors, symptomatology, complications, diagnosis, pathological anatomy, comparison with tabes in men, course, prognosis and treatment. It is a reliable treatise evolved from careful observation in a relatively large number of cases. In the experience of the authors tabes runs a much milder course in women and is very apt to become stationary. Therapy offers little hope except prophylaxis. "The best prophylaxis of tabes in women is thorough treatment of syphilis in men."

3. *Metastases*.—A case of a carcinoma metastasis in the cerebellum is reported. It is known that cases have presented marked symptoms of metastatic growths in the brain and been diagnosed such, only to be found at autopsy to show no such growth or a very small one, perhaps situated at a distance from the locality referred to by the symptoms. These facts suggest the possibility of the symptoms being produced by toxins elaborated by the tumor. From the histological findings in his own case the author does not come to a definite conclusion whether the changes in the neighborhood of the neoplasm were due to pressure or to toxic influence, but believes the latter much more probable. The Purkinje cells in the immediate neighborhood of the growth showed a central chromatolysis—an alteration which is not seen as a result either of pressure or intoxication but follows destruction of the axis-cylinder.

4. *Head Measurements*.—The horizontal and sagittal diameter and circumference, the auriculo-temporal line and the other common measurements used in craniometry are greatly affected by birth-accidents, race-peculiarities, rickets, etc. Moreover the fixed points from which these measurements are made are variable and often hard to find. Kellner has shown that the height of the skull is the best measurement of general intelligence. But the vertical line over the ears is apt to be affected by great breadth due to rickets. The author has therefore adopted an auriculo-frontal line, between the anterior borders of the external auditory meatus over the frontal eminences. This indicates the height of the skull in that region which, being the seat of intellectual and emotional life, should be definitely lower in congenital imbecility, the pathologic-anatomical basis of which is a loss of cells and fibers especially in the frontal region. The author's measurements were made upon 431 men and 315 women among which all the psychoses were represented and there were a number of feeble-minded (not idiots). The average measurements for imbeciles is compared with that of all other psychoses combined. Tables are given showing that horizontal and other measurements are of little value. The auriculo-frontal line, however, showed a significant dif-

ference in average between imbecility and other psychoses. Moreover, in other psychoses where inherited stigmata were obvious, this line was also shorter than average. The author believes this measurement will be valuable in doubtful cases in throwing the balance toward congenital or toward developed disorders.

(Vol. 31, No. 3. March, 1912)

1. Thomsen's Disease and Muscular Atrophy. O. ASCENZI.
2. The Grouping of Speech Associations. PFERSDORFF.
3. The Pathophysiological Conception of the Seizures and Deliria in Progressive Paralysis. H. SCHROTTENBACH.
4. Functional Interference in the Train of Ideas in Organic Brain Disease (Tumor). O. SITTING.
5. The Question of the Sensibility Paths in the Human Spinal Cord. H. FABRITIUS.

1. *Thomsen's Disease*.—In view of the frequent observation of well-defined symptoms of myotonia in other nervous diseases, especially functional disorders, the author believes the name Thomsen's disease should be applied to the congenital myotonias and that these cases should be differentiated from acquired myotonic states associated with other affections. The author describes a case of myotonia associated with muscular atrophy—an "atrophic myotonia." A number of ergograms accompany the text. It is probable that the two conditions are dependent upon the same pathological process. Whether this is purely an alteration in the muscles, or whether it is neuro-muscular, is still in doubt. Thirty-one cases similar to the author's are summarized from the literature. Certain peculiarities in the nature of the muscular contractions are described in detail.

2. *Speech-associations*.—A continued article, to be reviewed at its conclusion.

3. *Attacks in Paresis*.—Leucocyte estimation was made in ten cases. Leucocytosis occurred in every parietic attack. It was higher in the apoplectic than in the epileptic type. In acute delirious states the count was lower but in protracted deliria as high as in epileptic attacks. The leucocyte count usually varied with exacerbations and remissions in the symptom-picture. These facts speak for a toxic origin of the attacks.

4. *Train of Ideas in Organic Brain Disease*.—The case in question showed at autopsy a large endothelioma involving the left frontal lobe, island and first temporal. Typical signs of brain-tumor had not been present but there was weakness of right limbs and face. No articulatory disorder was present at any time. The mental state was one of dullness and amnesia with extreme retention-defect. There was no aphasic disorder, no spontaneous talk. Systematic questioning revealed the fact that extensive linking together of associations was quite impossible. Given appropriate words he was able to give their principal characteristics in terms of all the senses, as sugar—sweet, coin—round, etc., but when the characteristics of an article were given, as "it is white, flat and one writes on it," he was unable to name it. A concept could be easily brought up but the linking together with other concepts failed. The condition is likened to a loss of what James has called "overtones" in psychological processes. The ground-tones were awakened without difficulty but the overtones which, in the normal mind, connect concepts together in a train of associations were interfered with by the organic process. The condition is

rare and hitherto regarded as more probably of hysterical nature. In this case the organic cause was obvious.

5. *Sensory Pathways*.—A continued article, to be reviewed at its conclusion.

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# Zeitschrift für die gesamte Neurologie und Psychiatrie

(Volume V)

1. The Coöperation of the Psychiatrist in the Care and Training of the Young. SCHNITZER.
2. Rare Trophic Neurosis. SIMONS.
3. The Clinical Significance of Plaques. SCHROEDER.
4. Family Psychosis. FRANKENHAUSER.
5. The Theory of Hysteria. MEYER.
6. Cytology in Cerebro-spinal Fluid. KAFKA.
7. Ergot Psychosis. GUREWITSCH.
8. The Technique of Injection of Salt Solution in Sciatica. SCHEPELMANN.
9. Contribution to Localization of Apraxia. STAUFFENBERG.
10. The Conception of Hysteria. GAUPP.
11. History of Progressive Paralysis. MOENKEMOELLER.
12. Malignant Chordoma Involving Brain and Spinal Cord. JELLIFFE and LARKIN.
13. Contributions to the Study of Pathology of the Spinal Cord. OPPENHEIM.
14. Hysterical Fever. KAUFFMANN.

1. *The Coöperation of the Psychiatrist in the Care and Training of the Young*.—Schnitzer offers a very interesting article on this subject, which would repay one to read in the original. He maintains that 50 per cent. of the young that require institutional care are mentally defective. The abnormal personality is the most striking cause for their criminal tendencies, etc. It is important that such pupils should receive the attention of the psychiatrist and be treated accordingly. The markedly defective cases should be placed in a psychiatric institution; the mild cases should be segregated from the normal ones; and those cases which could be cared for by families should be under observation of a commission, one member of which should be a psychiatrist. In other words, the author insists that such cases should be attended by competent psychiatrists. Indeed, Schnitzer's argument is worthy of our support; after all a pedagog without medical and psychiatric training is unable to bestow proper attention and care upon these unfortunate members of the community.

2. *Rare Trophic Neurosis*.—Simon reports a case of trophic neurosis which he considers to be "Lipo-dystrophia progressiva."

3. *The Clinical Significance of Plaques in the Brain*.—The author, from his investigations, agrees with Fisher and Alzheimer that typical tissue changes may be found in the gray substance of senile and pre-senile brains. He supports Fisher's view that the anatomical findings are characteristic of senile dementia, but confirms Alzheimer's conclusions that the plaques are not the cause but accompanying manifestations of senile involution. The writer has little to offer as to the origin and significance of the plaques. He sees no objection of regarding them as products of abnormal metabolism or cell degeneration, because they are usually found in the cortex and nerves of the medullary substance.