

Periscope.

MISCELLANY

Cardiac Neuroses.—Pick, in his capacity as the chief of the Vienna Military Hospital, observed 41 soldiers between eighteen and thirty years of age, with a syndrome of symptoms approaching the character of Basedow's disease, but at the same time differing so essentially from it as to merit special consideration. The patients suffer from palpitation and oppression at the least effort, and complain of muscular fatigue. At the physical examination they all presented symptoms of a certain degree of a hypertrophy of the thyroid gland, usually of the left lobe, but the goiter was never pulsatile. The pupils are unequal, the right one rather dilated, but reacting to light; the mydriasis can hardly be ascribed to pressure of the right sympathetic through the lobe of the thyroid for the hypertrophy of the latter is too insignificant to cause such disturbance. All the subjects suffer from a very irritable heart, and the slightest effort suffices to increase abnormally the heart beats; so that in one minute the beats will jump from 70 to 140 per minute. The heart, as asserted by Kraus in other cases of thyroid hypertrophy, is rather dilated than hypertrophied. The cutaneous capillaries are very irritable and all the patients present marked dermatography. Axillary hyperidrosis, anesthetic pharynx, but without other symptoms of hysteria. Some show tremor of hands when extended with eyes closed, others some cardiac arrhythmia. Unable to form a positive diagnosis the author supposes the syndrome of symptoms to be a disguised form of Basedow's.

JELLIFFE.

The Various Reflexes in Diabetes.—It has been observed by Landouzy Rosenstein and others that the patellar reflex is either diminished or entirely absent in cases of diabetes mellitus. Pirres (*Soc. de Bul. de Bordeaux*, Nov. 11, 1902) undertook to investigate the condition of other reflexes in this affection. With this in view he examined 32 diabetics, and he finds the following:

	<i>Patellar.</i>	<i>Cutaneous.</i>	<i>Cremaster.</i>	<i>Plantar.</i>	<i>Pupillary.</i>
Abolished	13	6	19	16	1
Weakened	7	8	6	2	0
Exaggerated	2	6	4	6	0
Normal	10	1	3	8	31

It would thus seem that the cutaneous reflexes are, even more often than the patellar, either abolished or weakened. At times the tendon reflexes are first to disappear, at other times it is the cutaneous; of the latter we find at one time the cremasteric weakened or abolished, at other times the abdominal or the plantar, while the others are either exaggerated or normal. This great variability is observed also in other pathological states, especially in tabes, and this renders it somewhat difficult to explain the significance of the loss of reflexes. Contrary to the above, the pupillary reflexes are almost always preserved in diabetes. In the single case in which the author found them absent there was arteriosclerosis, diabetes with glycosuria and moderate polyuria. In the other cases the reaction of the pupils to light, accommodation and pain were perfectly normal. The conclusion may thus be drawn that although the condition of the cutaneous and tendon reflexes may not seem in the way of a differential

diagnosis between true tabes and diabetic pseudotabes, the character of the pupillary reflex and of the epigastric sensibility as well as the cremasteric reflex may be utilized in difficult cases to distinguish one affection from the other; inasmuch as the Argyll-Robertson pupil and the epigastric and testicular analgesia, so common in true tabes, are not observed in diabetes.

ELLIFFE.

RIVISTA SPERIMENTALE DI FREMATRIA

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1. The Correlation between Psychic and Organic States. SILVIO TONNINI.
2. A New Anomalous Process in the Sphenoid Bone of Man. TENCHINI and ZIMMERL.
3. Peripheral Facial Diplegia. PANEGROSSI.
4. A Contribution to the Study of Precocious Malignant Syphilis of the Brain. PANICHI.
5. The Toxic Principles of *Aspergillus Fumigatus* and *Flavescus* and Their Relation to Pellagra. CENI and BESTA.
6. The Nervous Lesions and the Pathogenesis of Amyotrophies of Articular Origin. PIGHNI.
7. A Contribution to the Study of Lingual Hemiatrophy. BIANCONE.
8. The Toxicity of the Blood of the Insane. CENI and PINI.
9. Hemorrhagic Encephalitis with Special Reference to the Tuberculous Variety. BOMBICCI.
10. Hypothermy in the Epileptic. BESTA.
11. The Assistance Rendered to Insane in Italy. TAMBURCINI.
12. The Action of Gastro-intestinal Juice on *Aspergillus*. CENI.

1. *The Correlation between Psychic and Organic States*.—The author employs the term correlation to express that close and varied connection which unites and co-ordinates the organic functions with the psychic ones, and these last with the psychic acts as manifested to the eye, etc. Disease, degeneration, mental sanity have all their proper psychic and psycho-organic correlations, and these correlaries are to be found not solely in pathologic conditions; for correlation is a biological function, and without it there is no life. To give an idea of the importance practically of these organic and psychic correlations, it is sufficient to take some examples from the sphere of the sexual life which exerts such a direct influence on the development and orientation of psychic life. Thus sexual perversions are always associated with certain organic and psychic secondary sexual characteristics. The author brings forth a case in point, that of a man of fifty-seven who was accused of seducing a young woman, but who claimed to be impotent. Physical as well as a thorough psychological examination by the author concerning all the man's habits, mode of thinking, etc., proved to the jury conclusively that the man could not but have been perfectly potent. The author makes the proposition that psychological examination and investigation should be carried out not only in cases of suspected mental alienation, but in all cases that lack proof of a committed crime; as such an examination requires knowledge and skill it should generally be entrusted only to an experienced psychiatrist. This province has, however, been invaded to some extent by Criminal Anthropology, with its practical tendencies to fix the correlation between the physical and psychical character of certain criminal types. Thus the mobile physiognomy, the erratic look, the uncertain gait of the thief are but dynamic symbols approaching the author's psycho-organic correlations. A great importance is to be attached to gesture, to various signs and motor phenomena which very frequently serve as substitutes for language. The author brings forth examples