

grade, 10 were psychopaths—3 of these having epileptoid attacks—one was a precocious dement, while the remaining four were difficult to classify exactly.

4. *A Simple Clinical Psychological Method of Testing Perception, Comprehension, Memory and Distractibility.*—In the method published by Vieregge in this JOURNAL, Volume LXV, a row of figures from 1 to 20 places are called off to the person being tested and he is asked to repeat them in proper order, at once, after an interval of one minute his attention having been kept upon the task in the interim, and after one minute his attention having been purposely relaxed. The author found that for practical use it was not necessary to use rows of over ten places; of ten persons chosen for the experiment, not one being able to reproduce at once any one of a row of eleven figures and only one of the ten giving correctly even one of ten rows of ten figures each. Further investigation showed that it made considerable difference whether the rows of the higher number of figures were given first or whether a start was made with the simpler rows, the variation between greatest and least numbers of correct answers being less in the first instance. By another set of experiments it was found that immediate reproduction by no means gave the highest number of correct results at least when the Kraepelin-Finzi method with letters was used in periods graded from immediately to 60 seconds, that of 15 seconds proving the optimum. In further experiments intended to prove whether spoken numbers, or the exposition of printed numerals were better adapted for stimuli, it was found that while the ability to reproduce varied within greater limits when the numerals were used, the method of spoken numbers gave the more exact results.

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### L'Encéphale

(Sixth year, No. 4. April, 1911)

1. A case of Tuberos Sclerosis. L. BABONNEU.
2. Deliria of Imagination. DUPRÉ AND LOGRE.
3. Choreic Syndromé and Intradural Tumors in an Alcoholic. LUCIEN LIBERT.
4. Anatomical Drawings and Conceptions of a Patient with Dementia Præcox. PASTUREL.

1. *Tuberos Sclerosis.*—This is a rare disease of which little has been written. The author reports a case which was under his observation at Bicêtre for nearly three years from his fifth year until his death. He was described as "child affected with a turbulent idiocy accompanied by convulsive attacks and unable to speak." In fact during life there was nothing to differentiate his case from the other encephalites. The case is very minutely gone into. At the autopsy three tuberosities were found at the level of the paracentral lobes. A careful examination of the histological structure of these was made, the findings being too detailed to permit of an abstract.

The rest of the article is devoted to a review of cases hitherto reported of this disease and a discussion of its diagnosis and etiology. The conclusion is that in our present state of knowledge it is impossible to recognize this condition during the life of the patient and that no satisfactory hypothesis as to its etiology has yet been advanced. The

article is well documented and illustrated by a number of excellent plates, some of them in color.

2. *Deliria of Imagination*.—In contradistinction to the hallucinatory deliria in which the disturbance is preponderatingly one of perception, and the deliria of interpretation in which perception is intact but the interpretation of relationships is impaired, in the deliria of imagination the patient equally careless of the observation by his senses and logical demonstrations makes affirmations the reality of which, although beyond all experience and totally unreasonable, he immediately believes.

The major part of this long article consists of a record and an analysis of a case of a young woman who after a very spectacular career of swindling and deceit came into conflict with the police. She was finally committed to Vancluse, being held as legally irresponsible. The rest of the article is largely an argument in favor of the recognition of this type of mental deviate as a fit subject for restraint and legal recognition of his irresponsibility.

3. *Choreic Syndrome*.—A long report and analysis of a case in which two small tumors were found in the dura of the frontal region to which, although there was a family history of choreic movements and a personal history of alcoholism, the author attributes the choreic symptoms exhibited by the patient.

4. *Anatomical Drawings*.—A short account of the notions of a patient suffering from dementia præcox concerning anatomy illustrated by some drawings showing his naïve conceptions.

C. W. HERRING.

### Miscellany

INDICAN SUPERSTITIONS. A. W. Peters. (Training School, Feb., 1913.)

In an interesting bio-chemical review devoted to indicanuria, the author shows that most of the present methods of testing for indican are faulty, and that the interpretations are fallacious. All urines contain indican. To interpret an excess of indican as pathological, apart from a knowledge of the exercise done, physical and mental, and particularly of the diet, is an absurdity. Baa, in his recent important monograph on indicanuria, has stated that the indican test of intestinal intoxication is a superstition. The lacto-bacillin, milk cereal diet, etc., etc., chiefly of Metschkinoff's suggestions have no effect upon the production or excretion of indican. Auto-intoxication from the intestines is another medical myth, invented to hide the ignorance of man in the face of the mysterious.