

Attention was drawn to the fact that soldiers suffering from shell shock frequently had no inducement to dismiss the idea from their mind. On the contrary, from their point of view, if they did so they would be returned to the army, while, on the other hand, if they continued to harbor and foster the idea that they were shell shocked, designated by Russell as loss of control of mental intelligence, they would draw a nice pension. Several instances were given in which men presenting various symptoms, as paralysis and so on and who were by means of rational measures disabused of the idea that they were thus afflicted. It had been stated that shell shock cases disappeared from the French Army when a rule was made that a soldier claiming to suffer from it would not receive a pension.

**Lopez, J. A.** MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT AND THE BRAIN. [Sem. méd. Buenos Aires, 1917, 24, p. 407.]

Tests were made on a troop of cavalry during a series of encampments, amongst the Andes. The psychic functions, the intelligent respond to various tests, showed no change at various altitudes up to 3,672 meters. [A. M. A.]

**Sicard, J. A., Roger, H.** BORDET-WASSERMANN REACTION OF THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID IN GENERAL PARALYSIS. [Bulletins et mémoires de la Société médicale des hôpitaux de Paris, February 21, 1918.]

These authors obtained a positive reaction in the spinal fluid in 100 cases of paresis, and maintain that a negative reaction in a suspected case, especially if the test is twice repeated at weekly or fortnightly intervals with the same result, excludes a diagnosis of this affection. Such differentiation is now of especial moment, as certain concussional states more or less closely reproduce the symptoms of chronic diffuse meningoencephalitis. High albumin content of the spinal fluid generally accompanies a positive reaction; the albumin varies independently of treatment and depends upon the congestive attacks sometimes clinically noticeable in these patients. The Bordet-Wassermann reaction of the blood was positive in about ninety-five per cent. of the cases before treatment and in only thirty-five per cent. after vigorous intravenous arsenobenzol therapy. On the other hand, the same reaction in the case of the spinal fluid always remained positive after treatment, even when doses of arsenobenzol so large as to cause severe intoxication were used.

**Zangger, H.** COMPULSORY INSURANCE AGAINST ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS IN SWITZERLAND. [Corresp.-bl. f. Schw. Aerzte (J. A. M. A.), June 8, 1918, 48, No. 23.]

This article was the closing lecture of Zangger's course on the medical features of the new accident insurance legislation in Switzerland. He emphasizes the special points of difference in the medical