

Studies in the Tyrosine Index of Polypeptidæmia in Mental Disorders [*Recherches sur l'index-tyrosine de poly-peptidémie dans les maladies mentales*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, vol. xv [i], p. 548, April, 1936.) Tomesco, P., Gruia Jonesco, N., and Constantinesco, P.

Hyperpolypeptidæmia is found in uræmia, hepatic insufficiency, post-operative shock, burns, etc. In excess it has a definite toxic action, the polypeptide level being regulated by the kidneys, liver and by the tissues themselves.

In the 166 cases studied by the method of Goiffon and Spaey, 66 showed a tyrosine index above the normal limit. Of these, 32 cases could be explained by extra-neural disorders, renal or hepatic insufficiency, malarial therapy, or pyretotherapy by milk. The other 34 could not be so explained.

It is concluded that in certain pathological conditions the nervous system has a direct influence on the polypeptidæmic level. STANLEY M. COLEMAN.

7. Criminology.

The Neymann-Kohlstedt Diagnostic Test for Introversion-extroversion as Applied to Delinquents. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xcii, p. 1137, March, 1936.) Pescor, M. J.

Delinquents tend to group themselves in the central or neutral zone, in contrast to normal individuals, who tend to show either marked extrovertive or introvertive tracts. There were no striking differences between delinquent extroverts and introverts. Judging from clinical observation, the Neymann-Kohlstedt test is more selective for extroverts than for introverts. The reliability coefficient as determined by the re-test method was .63, with a probable error of .03. The score is considerably influenced by transitory moods which obscure temperamental traits. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Criminal Behaviour in the Later Period of Life. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xcii, p. 915, Jan., 1936.) Schroeder, P. L.

Criminals over 40 tend to commit crimes of violence, such as murder, sex crimes or fraud. In the first two they tend to be relatively free from early records of delinquency or crime. In the second group their criminal behaviour tends to be a continuation of a pattern established at an earlier age.

The small number whose crime is for gain tend to show extensive earlier criminal records.

Factors within the individual, perhaps constitutional in character, appear to determine the distinctive character of the criminal after 40 and, in addition, the cessation of criminal activities at about 40 years of age. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.