

that institutional care, on eugenic grounds, be made compulsory in cases where consent is withheld, and where the indication for sterilization is absolute. It is further pointed out that legislation in respect of sterilization (in Germany) is urgently in need of revision, so that surgeons who undertake the operation can do so without fear of legal consequences to themselves. S. ANTONOVITCH.

### 3. Treatment.

*Treatment of Manic-Depressive Psychosis.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Hinsie, L. E., and Katz, S. E.

This is a survey of the literature of the past fifty years. A most extensive bibliography is presented, containing more than 550 references. The various trends of psychiatric interest are summarized, but the method of presentation is intentionally uncritical.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Grading of Patients in Mental Hospitals as a Therapeutic Measure.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Erickson, M. H., and Hoskins, R. G.

The patients are formally divided into six groups, in accordance with their psychiatric status. Each group is described in terms comprehensible to the patients. Patients are promoted or demoted from grade to grade, in accordance with changes in their mental condition. All such alterations are given publicity in the wards. It is insisted upon that patients are sent home only when they have attained the second highest grade. The method has proved most effective in stimulating self-improvement and confidence.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Dehydration Method in Epilepsy.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, July, 1931.) Cameron, D. E.

The method was carried out on a series of twelve typical institutional epileptics. There was no definite effect upon the occurrence of fits, or upon the patient's disposition. The patients were adversely affected by the diet; loss of weight was severe, and resistance was lowered. The method would appear to be of little value.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Autohæmotherapy in Mental Diseases.* (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, June, 1931.) Dessuelles, M., and Chiarli, A.

This method of treatment has been tried on 64 psychotics, the most satisfactory results being obtained in cases of anxiety, melancholia and in certain early delusional states. In the former group, 8 recovered, 7 improved, and 4 were unchanged. In the latter group of 6, 2 recovered, 2 improved in behaviour, and 2 remained unchanged. Five to 10 c.c. of citrated blood were given at one- to or three-day intervals, the number of injections being determined by the oculo-cardiac reflex, the blood-pressure, and changes