

students. Each was first interviewed, for 30 to 60 minutes, and graded, as regards extraversion-introversion, on a linear scale. Each then filled out a Bernreuter "personality inventory". Finally, each was tested with a modification of Snoddy's mirror-tracing device. The results show that the personality inventory and the mirror-tracing test are not measuring the same thing. On the other hand, there was a significant correlation between the personal judgment ratings and the time in the mirror-tracing test. The validity of the inventory type of test is highly questionable.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Reaction of Native White Convicts to the Bernreuter Personality Inventory.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 138, June-Aug., 1933.) Hargan, J.

The inventory was administered to 100 consecutive white admissions to Sing Sing Prison, New York. The results show that this inventory possesses distinct value in the case of subjects of a mental age of twelve years or more, so that there is no trouble with reading the questions. The research will be continued. In all these investigations we must remember that we are dealing with a convicted group, and that the findings do not necessarily apply to the "criminal" group as a whole.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*A Review of Experiments on Humour.* (*Psychol. Bull.*, vol. xxx, p. 752, Dec., 1933.) Perl, R. E.

Many different types of statements, anecdotes and situations have been considered funny, and have been classified according to their appeal. Neither intelligence nor personality type are closely connected with appreciation of humour in general, but the preferred jokes seem to be influenced by these factors. The surprise element ranks high with children. College students appreciate naïve jokes, or those based upon the inferiority of another person. Extraverts prefer jokes based upon superiority of the exposure of unrevealed thoughts, while introverts prefer jokes connected with repressions. Suggestion plays an important part in judgments of humour.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Associative Tendencies in Psychoneurotics.* (*Psychol. Clin.*, vol. xxii, p. 108, June-Aug., 1933.) Tandler, A. D.

An attempt was made to apply the free association method to a group of 50 psychoneurotic adults, 12 male and 38 female, ranging in age from 20 to 35 years. Sub-groups of the general classification were disregarded, since pure types of psychoneurotics do not exist. It is possible that there are included two differing groups under the general classification. One group is characterized by a constitutional inadequacy of associative behaviour. This group may be thought of as the true psychoneurotic, whose symptoms develop and become fixed on the basis of connections of an inferior sort, with resulting tensions. The other group, showing no associative pathology, may be regarded as presenting an emotional responsiveness to situational difficulties. We must differentiate between the emotional disturbances of normal individuals and psychoneurotic behaviour. The latter is usually stupid behaviour; the former often involves genuine situational difficulties of considerable complexity. The present study offers a suggestive field for differentiating the psychotic from the psychoneurotic, and for differentiation within the psychoneurotic group.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Sociology of the Neuroses [Soziologie der Neurosen].* (*Arch. für Psychiat.*, vol. xcix, p. 339, 1933.) Birnbaum, K.

This paper deals with the question of the social aspect of the neuroses in the way of a "general sociology", going into more detail for some types only. The author divides his subject into three main chapters: (1) The effect of social life on neurosis; (2) the effect of neurosis on society; and (3) the social treatment of neurosis.

With regard to the effects of social life on neurosis, he emphasizes that