

"PUTTING IT ON?"

FOR TESTING THE EMOTIONS

AMAZING MACHINE

DISTINGUISHING TEMPERAMENT AND TEMPER

Wives who cry because of temper will no longer be able to convince their husbands that they are genuinely distressed!

Those bad old days when conspiring families with ulterior motives clapped Uncle Ephraim or Aunt Emma into a mental home are gone forever.

All those deceptions, grave and petty, that have given zest to life and plots to novelists may yet be swept away by the Psychogalvanometer.

The principles of this amazing barometer of the emotions were explained to an audience of nerve specialists and alienists by Dr. W. S. Dawson (Sydney) before the neurology and psychiatry section of the Medical Congress to-day.

At the moment, he explained, its value might not be apparent, but the chief use of the instrument in the immediate future, he thought, would be in the detection of malingerers in

nervous disorders—the people who sought to convince themselves that their nerves were in shreds.

It will distinguish between temperament and temper, and it will tell a medical man more about our inmost thoughts and feelings than he could learn in a day of cross-examination in the carpeted seclusion of the consulting room.

And it looks so simple—merely a box with handles. The patient takes hold of the handle and his emotional reactions are set forth on a chart as faithfully as they would be in thirty

had been tested for any flicker of coherent or rational feeling, that might give hope that their condition was not permanent.

It had been found that insane subjects were all gravely defective in emotional feeling of any kind. Literature, drama, shock, horror, affection, left them equally indifferent.

Dr. Dawson pointed out that the chief value of the apparatus just now was in estimating how far the patient really felt what he was expressing.

It would prove when a woman wept whether she was really distressed, or was just "putting it on."

The lecturer did not test any person to-day, because he did not have the electrical gear associated with the psychogalvanometer at the conference room.

stanzas of autobiographical verse by a poet.

Dr. Dawson explained that if a passage of dramatic poetry or heroic prose were read to a patient, the instrument would show a doctor whether he was of genuinely literary tastes, and whether he had a dramatic sense, or was a cynic, or phlegmatic.

Electric measurement of emotional reactions was the principle the machine embodied.

It had been used in the mental hospitals of N.S.W. in an effort to estimate the types of emotion shown by patients who suffered from nervous disorders. A number of insane people had been tested for any flicker of coherent or rational feeling, that might

FIGHTING V.D.: "EXAMINE MOTHERS"

A Wasserman test of the blood of every expectant mother so that she may be treated if the test is positive and the child saved from the syphilitic taint was the proposal put forward by Dr. J. Cooper-Booth, State Director of the Campaign Against Venereal Disease, in a paper before the Preventive Medicine Section of the congress.

Dr. Cooper-Booth strongly urged that a lectureship in venereal disease should be established at Sydney University in order that students could be more adequately instructed in the most effective means of treating venereal disease.

An important factor in the treatment of V.D., and one that was making the fight of the medical profession against the scourge much more difficult, was the extensive quackery that was being practised. He thought that there was only one way in which quackery could be put down—by preventing unauthorised persons from treating any disease whatever. He considered, too, that insurance compensation should be paid to sufferers

from venereal disease who were thrown out of employment by a provision in the N.S.W. Act which prohibited them from handling food-stuffs. Such a measure, he believed, would bring into the light and under medical care much venereal disease that was now hidden.

There is definite evidence that the incidence of syphilis and gonorrhea is decreasing in Australia, declared Dr. W. J. Holmes, of Canberra, in a paper on the value of legislation in the control of venereal disease, read by Dr. W. M. Bevington, of Sydney.

In 1929 there were 4516 cases of gonorrhea notified in N.S.W., but in 1927 there were 4134. Syphilis notifications had decreased from 1270 to 1257. In Victoria, West Australia, and Queensland still greater reductions had occurred. At Prince Alfred Hospital in 1923 1040 patients had been treated for V.D., and in 1928 941 had received treatment.

The experience of medical men as well as the results noted in clinics showed that V.D. was steadily declining.

"THINK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER"

An important move to form an organisation to cultivate what is known as "mental hygiene," was made at a conference convened by the neurology and psychiatry section of the Congress this afternoon.

Representatives of various bodies interested in the mental welfare of the community, were invited to attend.

Dr. Ralph Noble explained that the movement was an effort to conserve and improve the minds of the people, so that they would feel better, act better, and think better than they did now. The diseases which underlay mental derangement, were now much better understood.

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Dr. Bostock pointed out that in the past boys had been expelled from school and had caused great shame to themselves and their parents when they could have been seen by a psychiatrist, treated, and returned to normal.

Dr. Maudsley, of Melbourne, said that a few words in time could save a great deal of suffering. Sex education was a matter that had to be considered very seriously. Some school teachers did excellent work, but one often wondered whether such affairs should be out of medical hands. It was not a question of professional jealousy, but every thinking man would admit that there should be medical supervision.

Dr. E. H. Molesworth, of Sydney, in

an address upon allergic problems

an address upon allergic problems arising from hypersensitiveness, said that knowledge of the effect of pollens upon human beings would be of immense value not only in the treatment of hay fever and asthma, which were universally recognised as manifestations of allergy, but also in the case of many eczemas.

Of 1000 patients suffering from allergic symptoms examined by Dr. Ivan Maxwell, of Melbourne, 481 reacted to grass pollen, 51 to Cape weed pollen, and 83 to other irritants.

House dust was a factor in asthma, declared Dr. Maxwell. Patients suffering from asthma should sleep either out of doors or in a room devoid of window hangings, carpets, rugs, and other collectors of dust.

Brain Operations Safer Now

The mortality in brain operations up till several years ago, was hideous, declared Dr. Lyle Buchanan, in an address upon experiences in Encephalography (diseases of the brain and spinal column).

In those days, too, the mortality in survivors was also great. When electro-surgery was introduced into brain work, results improved. Figures now showed that even in cases of brain tumor, admittedly the most dangerous class of head case, the mortality had been reduced to 8.1 per cent. in the case of one doctor, and 2.4 per cent. in the case of another.

With the aid of films, Dr. Buchanan demonstrated the methods of treating various brain diseases.