

JOURNAL ABSTRACTS

Post traumatic Psychiatric Disturbances : Patterns and Predictors of Outcome.

**By : M.S. KESHAVAN, S.M. CHANNABASAVANNA
and G.N. NARAYANA REDDY.**

Brit. J. Psychiat. (1981), 138, 157-160

A prospective follow-up study of 60 randomly selected cases of closed adult civilian head injuries was conducted for three months from the time of head injury to assess the frequency, patterns, and factors related to post traumatic psychiatric disturbances.

Eighty percent of the cases had a neuropsychiatric disturbance as assessed at 1½ months. The commonest was post-consussional syndrome (43 percent). The extent of social dysfunction was directly related to the severity of head injury. However, the total number of symptoms (largely subjective) correlated highly with pre-traumatic neuroticism.

These findings underline the potential value of anticipatory psycho-social counselling in reducing subjective distress in patients who appear to be neurotic. Patients with severe cognitive deficits, early institution of retraining and rehabilitation may promote regaining of social function.

Z. B.

School phobia : A Therapeutic Trial with Clomipramine and Short-Term Outcome.

**By : T. BERNEY, I KOLVIN, S.R. BHATE R.F. GARSIDE
J. JEANS, B. KAY, and L. SCARTH.**

Brit. J. Psychiat. (1981), 138, 110-118

The present study was a double-blind trial to compare clomipramine and a placebo in the treatment of school refusal. Patients were stratified

for sex and randomly assigned to treatment because of its anxiolytic, antiphobic, antidepressant properties. No significant short-term effects of clomipramine in the doses recommended for use in general practice were found. Neither age nor sex were significantly related to improvement, except on one behavioural measure where girls initially did better than boys. It was found that there was a rapid relief of depression but neurotic symptomatology tended to persist.

Z. B.

Pure Erotomania in Manic-Depressive Psychosis.

By: WAGUEH R. GUIRGUIS

Brit. J. Psychiat. (1981), 138, 139-140.

Pure erotomania was first described in 1920 by the French Psychiatrist de Clerembault. It is a delusional condition, usually in a woman who believes that a man, unattainable because of his much higher social class or married state, is very much in love with her. The belief has a precise onset and occurs suddenly in a state of clear consciousness, no hallucinations and chronic course. A case study was made for a female patient with manic depressive psychosis with the occurrence of erotomanic symptoms during the depressive phase and disappearance of the infatuation during the hypomanic phases. One expects patients to have delusions of being loved when manic and of being unloved when depressed. The author believes that a primary treatable condition could be found in many cases of pure erotomania if one looked for it hard enough or long enough.

Z. B.

Are Young Women Who Attempt Suicide Hysterical

By: ROBERT D. GOLDNEY

Brit. J. Psychiat. (1981), 138, 141-146.

Young women who had attempted suicide did not score in a more

hysterical manner than women in a comparison group when assessed by hysteroid obsessoid questionnaire. Those who made suicide attempts resulting in little physical harm more often demonstrated hysterical traits than those whose attempt involved a serious threat to life. However, even in those subjects the majority did not score in a hysteroid manner, and they certainly scored in a less hysteroid manner than subjects of the comparison group. The results do not support the clinical view that young women who attempt suicide exhibit marked hysterical traits.

Z. B.

Hyperkinetic and conduct Problem Children in a Primary School Population: Some Epidemiological Considerations.

**By: SELIA T. SANDBERG, MICHAEL WIESELBERG
and DAVID SHAFFER.**

J. Child Psychol. Psychiat. Vol. 21, No. 4, October 1980.

An epidemiological survey designed to investigate the possible causal influence of biological and psychological factors on hyperactivity and conduct disturbance among 226 primary school boys is provided. The teacher questionnaires failed to distinguish between the two conditions but disturbance was significantly related to high social disadvantage. The parent questionnaire distinguished the two groups better and disturbance of either kind was markedly associated with maternal mental distress and this far outcome weighed the contribution of any other background variable.

Z. B.

Behavioral Predictors of Amitriptyline Response in Depression.

By: CANDICE J. RANELLI, and ROBERT E. MILLER

Am. J. Psychiatry, 138 : 1, January 1981.

In this study of 18 female depressed patients and 18 age-and sex-

matched control subjects, the authors examined the relationship between nonverbal behavior and treatment outcome with amitriptyline. A behavioural analysis indicated that amitriptyline responders could be differentiated from nonresponders before drug treatment on the basis of discrete nonverbal behaviors. Non responders showed a high frequency of body — focused self — adaptors, posture shifts, and pauses and a low frequency of smiles, while responders displayed long speech pauses and long durations of head aversion.

Z. B.

Intellectual Performance and Reading Skills After localized Head Injury in Childhood.

**By: OLIVER CHADWICK, MICHAEL RUTTER, JAMES
THOMPSON and DAVID SHAFFER**

J. Child Psychol. Psychiat., Vol. 22, pp. 117-139, April 1981.

Ninety-seven school age children who had previously sustained a unilateral compound depression fracture of the skull, involving a tear in the dura and observed damage to the underlying brain, were studied using tests of intelligence and reading attainment together with more specialized tests of specific cognitive functions.

Intellectual impairment was significantly associated with the overall severity of brain trauma, as reflected in the duration of unconsciousness and treatment for cerebral oedema. It was also probably associated with the severity of local trauma, as reflected in late post-traumatic epilepsy or motor abnormalities. The hemisphere damaged had no effect on the pattern of cognitive deficit.

Z. B.

Hysterical Conversion Reactions in Childhood.

By : IAN GOODYER

***J. Child Psychol. Psychiat.* Vol. 22 pp. 179-188, April 1981.**

A retrospective analysis of hysterical conversion reactions shows that they are uncommon in in-patient psychiatric practice. The condition is more common in girls and does not present before 5 years of age. All cases had physical investigations which were prolonged and preceded psychiatric referral. The frequency of previous psychiatric difficulties in both the referred child and his family suggests that symptom formation is but one component in ongoing psychological disturbance that requires consideration of both family and individual factors.

Z. B.

Attachment, Loss and Depression

**By : MARTIN REITE, ROBERT SHORT, CONNY
SEILER and J. DONALD PAULEY**

***J. Child Psychol. and Psychiat.* Vol. 22, pp. 141-169, April 1981.**

The influence of 10 days of maternal separation on behaviour and physiology was studied in 8 social groups of living pigtailed macaque (*M. nemestrina*) monkey infants. Maternal separation was accompanied by behavioural changes which included slowing of movement, decrease in play, sad facial expression. Physiological changes included decrease in heart rate and body temperature, sleep disturbances that were most pronounced in the Awake and REM sleep systems, and changes in EEG alpha power-spectra. The findings have important implications for our understanding of the pathophysiology of grief, and the physiological concomitants of separation, loss, and depression in children.

Z. B.

Depression and Suicide Ideation in the Young Adult.

By : EVELYN L. GOLDBERG

Am. J. Psychiatry, 138, 1, January 1981.

As part of the community Mental Health Epidemiology program 489, 18-24-year-olds in Washington country, Md., and Kansas city, Mo., were studied to learn which factors are related to thoughts of suicide in young adults. Depressive symptomatology, poor physical health, and minor psychiatric symptoms were present in this population, as they are in adults of all ages who have suicide ideation. Overt aggression and separation from the mother before 16 years of age were also present. These factors have been previously shown to be characteristic of suicide attempters and completers, so early identification of people at high risk for suicide by use of these factors may be feasible.

Z. B.