

They conclude, therefore, that the cobra venom hemolytic reaction is not specific for manic-depressive psychosis or dementia praecox, that it may be obtained in various physical disorders as well as in the psychoses neuroses and organic brain diseases, and that in not more than fifty per cent. of cases of manic-depressive or dementia praecox is a positive reaction obtained. Alt,<sup>3</sup> in another article, shows that the reaction is not specific for dementia praecox and manic-depressive insanity, his results are based on a study of fifty cases. Zaloziecki<sup>4</sup> was able to obtain a positive psycho-reaction with various forms of insanity and also in ordinary physical diseases and practically constantly in the newborn. He believes that its real diagnostic value is insignificant and that its presence might be explained as being simply attendant upon muscular activity. The work of L'raenkel,<sup>5</sup> Beyer and Wittleben,<sup>6</sup> and R. Kraus,<sup>7</sup> and his collaborators, would also go to show that the psycho-reaction is indeed of questionable value as a diagnostic agent. Through the kindness of Dr. Noguchi, of the Rockefeller Institute, who was good enough to supply me with cobra venom, and the generous co-operation of the staffs of certain of the Massachusetts State Hospitals, I was able to make the test in a fair number of cases, the results of which are given below in the form of a table.

It will be seen at once that while there were certain evidences pointing to an inhibition of hemolysis at the end of two hours in the thermostat that after twenty-two hours more in the ice-box complete hemolysis was present. In no case of manic-depressive insanity or dementia praecox was a clear-cut, positive reaction obtained; on the other hand in two non-insane patients, a positive reaction was obtained. If, as in ordinary hemolysis ex-