

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.*

1. Anatomy and Physiology.

The Metabolic Cost of Sustained Postures in Normal and Catatonic Subjects. (*Brain*, vol. lvi, p. 282, Sept., 1933.) Gaylor, J. B., and Wishart, G. M.

The authors carried out investigations under basal conditions and during posture on three psychotic patients and five normal subjects imitating the posture. A definite increase of metabolism during the posture was observed in both normal and pathological cases. On the average the metabolic cost of the posture was about one-fifth greater in the normals than in the psychotics. The circulatory disturbance due to the posture was considerably greater in the normals.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Cerebral Vegetative Centres and Hæmatopoiesis [*I centri vegetativi cerebrali e l'ematopoesi*]. (*Riv. Sper. di Freniat.*, vol. lvii, p. 385, June, 1933.) Milani, G.

The author investigated 38 cases of various nervous diseases, and found a modification of the formed elements in the blood in 35% of all cases and in 26% of the cases of epidemic encephalitis. There was a shift to the left in 22.5%. He concludes that there is probably a diffuse area in the brain which has a regulating effect on the hæmatopoietic organs.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

A Clinical and Experimental Investigation of the Nervous Regulation of the Morphological Elements of the Blood [*Ricerche cliniche e sperimentali sulla regolazione encefalica degli elementi morfologici del sangue*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xlii, p. 389, Sept.-Oct., 1933.) Riccitelli, L.

The author gives findings from 15 rabbits, 5 of which had injury of the floor of the fourth ventricle and 10 of the third ventricle. The results obtained were an increase in the number of both red and white cells. In some cases the leucocytosis was accompanied by a marked neutrophilia, in others there was a lymphocytosis and monocytosis.

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Analysis of Sensation in Terms of the Nerve Impulse. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxi, p. 34, Jan., 1934.) Heinbecker, P., Bishop, G. H., and O'Leary, J.

The authors carried out experiments using procaine instead of cocaine, and obtained a differential loss of sensation. They confirmed the findings of Gasser and Erlanger that fibres are blocked in order of size, the smallest fibres first. The order of sensory loss is cold, warmth, pain and touch for skin sensation. Sensibility to deep pressure and joint sense disappear at the same stage of narcosis as sensibility to touch, and sensibility to deep pain at the same stage as sensibility to superficial pain.

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