

the passage in the opposite direction. The choroid plexuses, ependyma, neuroglia, cerebro-spinal vessels and leptomeninges are the main anatomical constituents of the "barrier." There is reliable evidence that the barrier acts as a dialysing membrane. Any functional disorder resulting in either increase or decrease of the permeability has an ill effect upon the nervous system. The problem is of importance from the point of view of intra-spinal treatment, and of measures aiming to increase the permeability. Among the latter, pyretotherapy is recommended. But the problem requires further investigation.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Permeability of the Hæmato-Encephalic Barrier as Determined by the Bromide Method.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1930.) Gordy, S. T., and Smith, S. M.

The authors examined 183 patients at the Philadelphia Hospital for Mental Disease by Walter's bromide method. In general paralysis the majority of cases showed a marked increase in meningeal permeability. In dementia præcox the majority of patients showed a normal figure, about 24% showed increased permeability and 7% diminished permeability. In cases of chronic alcoholic psychosis there was a tendency towards increased permeability. A similar tendency is shown in some degree in psychoses with cerebral arterio-sclerosis. Half of the cases of manic-depressive psychosis showed increased permeability. In post-encephalitic cases and in senile psychosis there were no abnormal tendencies.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Barrier between the Blood and Cerebro-spinal Fluid. III: Distribution Ratio of Bromides in Schizophrenias.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, August, 1930.) Malamud, W., and Rothschild, D.

The authors investigated 210 cases. They found that in schizophrenia uncomplicated by somatic diseases, 60% of the cases showed ratios above 3.2 (up to 4.3), 38% ratios between 2.8 and 3.2, and 2% below 2.8. Active tuberculosis, cerebral arterio-sclerosis, acute infections and reaction to typhoid inoculation tended to increase the passage of bromides into the spinal fluid (*i.e.*, to decrease the ratio). There was no definite relationship between the distribution ratio and the type of schizophrenia as usually described. A large proportion of the cases with ratios between 2.8 and 3.2 ran acute courses with remissions. The few cases with a ratio below 2.8 showed passive decompensating types of schizophrenic processes.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Galactose Tolerance in Dementia Præcox.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, September, 1930.) Sleeper, F. H., and Hoskins, R. G.

The authors determined the galactose tolerance in 135 male cases of dementia præcox. They found some variability in those