

*The Action of a New Preparation of Bismuth in the Pre-clinical Stage of Neuro-syphilis* [*Acción de un nuevo bismuto en el período preclínico de la neurosífilis*]. (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xl, p. 1710, Nov. 30, 1933.) Carrillo, F., Schujman, S., and Campos, R. M.

The new preparation is entitled "iodobismitol". It consists of an iodide of bismuth dissolved in ethylene glycol which contains 12% of iodide of sodium, the latter appearing to facilitate penetration. It is prepared in vials of 2 c.c. capacity, each containing 0.12 gr. of the iodide of bismuth and sodium. It is used intramuscularly. Good results are reported. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Tryparsamide in the Treatment of Neurosyphilis.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxviii, p. 354, Oct., 1933.) Reese, H. R.

The author gives the result of the Wisconsin group of general paretics treated with tryparsamide. He found in a group of 341 cases clinical arrests or remissions in 54%, and in a group of 306 cases of meningo-vascular syphilis he found clinical or serological cures in 78%. The poorer results in paretics were in cases with depression, stupor, dementia, and especially in the taboparetics. In the treatment of tabes, tryparsamide has done more good than the other arsenicals. In the parietic group the serological results were: blood Wassermann, 49.2% negative, 35.6% reduced, 15.2% unchanged positive; fluid Wassermann, 25.7% negative, 47% reduced, 27.3% unchanged positive.

In many cases the author believes combined therapy with tryparsamide and malaria to be the best. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Treatment of Juvenile and General Paralysis.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. vii, p. 593, Oct., 1933.) Potter, H. W.

The author treated 60 cases of juvenile general paralysis. The treatment of choice is either malaria or tryparsamide; the latter is the simpler treatment. From a consideration of 38 cases treated with malaria or tryparsamide, the author concludes that the prognosis is better in (1) cases who, prior to the onset of the paresis, were of normal mental level; (2) those who were in or past adolescence when the symptoms developed; (3) those showing the confused and expansive reaction types; and (4) those in whom the elapsed time between the onset of the disease and the treatment did not exceed two years. Malaria or tryparsamide is advocated for any child with a positive spinal fluid serology, even though neurological signs and mental symptoms of general paralysis are absent.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Results of Endospinal Bismuth Therapy in Neuro-syphilis* [*Resultados parciales de la bismutoterapia endorraquídea en la neurosífilis*]. (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xl, p. 1992, Dec. 21, 1933.) Orlando, R., and Grobli, W.

In cases of typical general paralysis the endospinal injection of insoluble bismuth, in doses of 0.07 cgrm. every ten days up to a total of 0.5 cgrm., produces a slight modification of the globulins. In cases of general paralysis which have been previously subjected to malarial therapy, bismuth treatment modifies favourably all the reactions, including the gold curve. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Action of the Pasteur Antirabic Vaccine on Epileptic Attacks, Hebephrenic-catatoniac Psychoses and Parkinsonian States* [*Action du vaccin antirabique pastorien sur les accès épileptiformes, les psychoses hébéphréno-catatoniques et les états parkinsoniens*]. (*Ann. Méd. Psych.*, vol. xiv (ii), p. 342, Oct., 1933.) Cruweilhier, L., Barbé, A., and Nicolau, S.

Of a series of 17 epileptics given antirabic vaccine treatment, 7 showed diminished frequency and severity of the fits, associated in 3 cases with increased stability of character; the remainder were unaffected. The 9 cases of dementia præcox

subjected to the treatment showed no alteration in their condition. In the 6 Parkinsonians the essential neurological state was unrelieved, though some amelioration of the general condition was noted. S. M. COLEMAN.

*Therapeutic Euthanasia [Eutanasia terepéutica]. (La Semana Méd., vol. xli, p. 391, Feb. 1, 1934.) Moss, J. J.*

According to the author there is a growing demand for the legalization of therapeutic euthanasia in cases of painful and incurable maladies. Three types of case may be distinguished: (1) The patient is aware of his condition and of the impossibility of his cure, and demands death. Society should allow the wish of the patient to be carried into effect. (2) The patient is incurable, but is incapable of appreciating his condition or of desiring death. Society, with the consent of the patient's family, should appoint a medico-legal commission to carry out such examinations as may be necessary in order to decide upon the desirability of euthanasia. (3) The patient is incurable, but refuses euthanasia. In this case some authorities contend that euthanasia should, after minute medical examination, be allowed, even against the wish of the patient's family. The whole question is complicated by the fact that therapeutic euthanasia might be liable to abuse, but this danger should not prevent us from studying the question without prejudice.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

## 6. Pathology and Biochemistry.

*Morphological Metabolism of Neutral Fats in the Central Nervous System During Development of the Embryo. (Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxiv, p. 578, 1933.) Hadjioloff, A., and Ouzounoff, G.*

In the chick embryo neutral fats were detected in the central nervous system from the fifth to about the fifteenth day; they then disappeared.

L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

*Nerve Catalase. (Amer. Journ. Physiol., vol. cvi, p. 404, 1933.) Schmitt, F. O., and Skow, R. K.*

Frog nerve contains relatively little catalase. Nerve tissue contains a thermostable substance that actively catalyses the oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids. It is unlikely that the oxidation catalyst is the residue of catalase alone.

J. F. LYMAN (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Effect of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> upon the Respiratory Quotient of Brain Tissue. (Biochem. Journ., vol. xxvii, p. 1927, Dec., 1933.) Sinclair, H. Mc.*

The respiration of brain tissue from normal, rice-fed and polyneuritic pigeons was studied in the presence of lactate, buffered with either phosphate or bicarbonate. The respiratory quotient of the tissue from polyneuritic pigeons is low, and is raised nearly to the normal value by the addition *in vitro* of minute amounts of crystalline vitamin B<sub>1</sub>. This low value is independent of inanition, since the addition of vitamin does not influence the respiratory quotient of tissue from normal pigeons, and hardly influences the quotient of tissue from pigeons fed on polished rice but not showing symptoms.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Influence of Nervous Stimulation on Absorption from the Intestine; the Humoral Theory of Nervous Action. (Amer. Journ. Physiol., 1933, cvi, p. 283.) Gellhorn, E., and Northup, D.*

In a frog preparation in which the intestine is perfused with isotonic glucose, and the blood-vessels supply the intestine perfused with Ringer solution, and the perfusion rate is kept constant, the absorption of glucose is regularly altered