

for the second period and 166 mgrm. for the third period. The mean value for 26 normal men was 175 mgrm. Both the schizophrenic patients and the controls showed great variability in the cholesterol values, the former having a standard deviation of 20 mgrm. and the latter of 27 mgrm. The authors think that the difference between the first period and the last two is a seasonal one. They found no correlations between the blood cholesterol and the basal metabolic rate or the emotional status.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Plasma Lipoids in Mental Depression.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xiii, p. 141, July, 1933.) Slight, D., Long, C. N. H., and Salter, R. W.

A comparison of psychotic depressions of the manic-depressive type with normals shows that in the former (1) the total fatty acids of the plasma are higher in the fasting state. After a fat meal there is a greater rise in the total fatty acids. (2) The cholesterol is at a higher level, both in the fasting state and after a fat meal. (3) The iodine number is lower in the depressives; this may be taken as indicating that, in these cases, there is a greater proportion of saturated plasma lipoids.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Brain Antigens in the Sero-diagnosis of Nervous Types of Syphilis.* (*Boll. soc. Ital. biol. sper.*, vol. viii, p. 463, 1933.) Clivo, C., and de Molli, A.

Extracts of human brain used as antigen in lues of the nervous system do not have the superiority claimed by Marchionini in the differential diagnosis between lues cerebri and metaluetic forms.

P. MASUCCI (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Chemical Nature of Lipoid Antigens, in Particular those of Brain and Wassermann Antigens.* (*Klin. Woch.*, vol. xii, p. 1100, 1933.) Rudy, H.

The purest preparations of organic-specific brain haptene (the component of brain tissue supposed to react specifically with anti-brain sera and with paretic spinal fluid) contain nitrogen, glucose and traces of creatinine. The active constituent seems to resist hot alkaline solutions, and is not precipitated by alcoholic solutions of cadmium chloride. The active principle in Wassermann antigen (alcoholic extracts of beef heart) is, however, precipitated by cadmium chloride, is destroyed by saponification and contains no true glucose, reducing potassium ferricyanide, but not Fehling's solution. A method is described for freeing the active principle in the brain and heart extracts from cholesterol.

HARRY EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Relation of Brain Extracts in Serological Reactions, with Special Reference to Spinal Fluids.* (*Zeits. f. Immunitäts.*, vol. lxxviii, p. 437, 1933.) Prusse, G.

Wassermann-positive spinal fluids, which also react with cholesterolized brain extract, lose this reactivity if they are diluted with Wassermann-negative serum instead of sodium chloride solution. The reaction with cholesterolized heart extract (Wassermann) is little or not at all decreased. There are individual differences among sera in this effect. The reaction of an anti-beef heart extract serum with brain extract can be inhibited with serum in the same way. A comparable phenomenon is the inhibition with normal rabbit serum of a reaction of Forssman anti-serum with a weak Forssman antigen, although the reaction with a strong antigen is unaffected or only slightly so. Brain extract in excess masks the reaction of Wassermann-positive spinal fluids with heart extracts. If serum is added to the spinal fluid, only a small amount of brain extract gives the same degree of masking action. These experiments indicate that in Wassermann-positive spinal fluids brain-specific antibodies are present. The addition of negative serum to these spinal fluids makes their reactivity strongly approach that of Wassermann-positive sera. The difference in the colloidal structure of spinal fluid and serum is probably the cause of the difference in reactivity with brain extract.

JULIAN H. LEWIS (Chem. Abstr.).