

indole, isoamylamine and mescaline inhibited the oxidation of glucose, sodium lactate and sodium pyruvate by the brain. They also inhibited the oxidation of sodium glutamate, but, with the exception of tyramine, they had little or no effect on the oxidation of sodium succinate. The effects of the amine were similar to, and of the same order of magnitude as those of typical narcotics. Neuline, cadaverine, putrescine, ethylamine and histamine had relatively little effect on the oxidation by the brain of glucose, sodium lactate or sodium succinate. Skatole also diminishes the oxidation of glucose by brain.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Mental Derangement as a Result of Oxygen Lack in Circulatory Failure.* (Wien. klin. Woch., vol. xlv, p. 865, 1933.) *Hitzenberger, K.*

Two cases are reviewed in which arterial blood had an oxygen saturation ranging from 62.6–83.5%. The carbon dioxide contents were 58 and 73 vols. %. From these data it was deduced that the oxygen supply to the brain was inadequate.

D. B. DILL (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Blood Velocity in Hyperthyroidism [La velocidad sanguínea en el hipertiroidismo].* (La Semana Méd., vol. xl, p. 38, July 6, 1933.) *Del Castillo, E. B., Berconsky, I., and Cossio, P.*

Estimations of the blood velocity were made in 24 cases of hyperthyroidism (6 cases of exophthalmic goitre, 13 cases of toxic adenoma and 5 cases of hyperthyroidism without goitre). These estimations were compared with those made on 19 control cases. The average velocity of the blood in hyperthyroidism is increased as compared with that found in normal subjects. No relation was observed to exist between the blood velocity and the various clinical forms of hyperthyroidism.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Determinations of the Sex Hormones (Anterior Pituitary and Follicular Hormones) in Normal, Psychopathic and Neurological Patients. II: The Anterior Pituitary Hormone in Subjects with Non-functioning Generative Glands.* (Klin. Woch., vol. xii, p. 896, 1933.) *Osterreicher, W.*

After cessation of function of the generative glands (post-menopause, castration, atrophy), the pituitary sex hormone is regularly increased in the urine and the blood, and is demonstrable in the pituitary gland itself provided only that the latter is intact. Such an increased excretion of pituitary hormone is necessary, but not sufficient criterion of absent gonadal function. The absence of both the pituitary and sex hormones suggests pituitary damage.

HARRY EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*Investigations of Liver Function in Mental Disease.* (Norsk-Mag. Laeg., vol. xciv, p. 170, 1933.) *Lingjaerde, O.*

Symptoms of liver affection were found in various forms of mental disease, except in constitutional and psychopathic cases and oligophrenia, where conditions were always normal. Symptoms of liver affection were present in 80% of cases of schizophrenia in the active phase. Long-time experiments with 25 patients, with careful control of the daily supply of protein, fat and carbohydrate, and observation of ketonuria and urobilinuria, showed that the latter is frequently due to deficiency of carbohydrate; this leads to the assumption that urobilinuria is an indication of the glycogen content of the liver. Deficiency in this glycogen content may affect the metabolism of the ganglia cells, and may also contribute to intestinal intoxication. Hence, special attention should be paid to the supply of carbohydrates and the control of ketonuria and urobilinuria in cases of schizophrenia and other mental diseases.

H. C. M. INGBERG (Chem. Abstr.).