Cephalin from Human Brain. V. Oxygen Uptake by Phosphatides and their Acids in the Presence of Catalysts. (*Zeit. physiol. Chem., vol. ccxxxi, p.* 10, 1935.) *Page, I. H., and Bülow, M.*

The consumption of oxygen by the phosphatides, lecithin and cephalin, and by the mixed acids prepared therefrom by saponification was measured in the presence of catalysts. Of the metallic salts used (Fe, Cu, Co, Mn) only Fe was strongly active, especially in the case of cephalin and its acids, while with lecithin and the lecithin acids the effect was only slight. Cu was feebly active, also Co with cephalin acids. The amino-acids, histidine, leucine and arginine, had no catalytic effect. The oxygen uptake by cephalin was much greater than that of lecithin, even when phosphatides of the same iodine number were compared. However, phosphatides and acids of the same iodine number showed no difference. The union of acids to the other groupings in the phosphatide molecule appears to be without influence on the oxidation velocity of the acids. A. W. Dox (Chem. Abstr.).

Mechanism of the Action of Staphylococcus Toxin Injected into the Sub-occipital Region of the Spinal Canal of the Rabbit. (*Compt. rend. soc. biol., vol. cxviii, pp.* 136–8, 1935.) *Nélis, P., and Bonnet, H.*

In anæsthetized rabbits no convulsions are produced by the toxin. Death occurs as the result of a gradual cessation of breathing. If artificial respiration is employed the animals live a few minutes longer and die from heart failure. The toxin is a neurotoxin acting on the respiratory and vasomotor centres.
L. E. Gilson (Chem. Abstr.).

Histopathological Investigations in the So-called Schizophrenic Type of General Paralysis [*Histpathologische Untersuchungen bei der sog. schizophrenen Form der progressiven Paralyse*]. (*Arch. f. Psychiat., vol. cii, p.* 25, 1934.) *Hechst, B.*

The author examined the brains of three paretics who had shown a mental picture resembling schizophrenia. He believes he has demonstrated in previous investigations that there are constant localized lesions in the cortex of schizophrenics.

In the paretics here described the author could find no deviation from the usual findings in general paralysis with regard to localization in cortical areas or layers. The intensity of the pathological process is low, and the author regards this mildness of the process as one of the conditions for the schizophrenic type of general paralysis. Of special findings two seem noteworthy. Few cases showed lesions in the subcortical ganglia, and the cases with auditory hallucinations showed a very mild degree of the process in the temporal regions. S. L. Last.

Alterations in Mineral Constituents of Anterior Horn Cells in Experimental Poliomyelitis. (*Amer. Journ. Pathol., vol. x, p.* 615, 1934.) *Patton, W. E.*

By means of micro-incineration technique it was found that the principal type of nerve-cell destruction in poliomyelitis involves three stages: (1) œdema, with acute swelling of the cell and diminution of its inorganic content; (2) granulation, with hypermineralization; and (3) acidophilic necrosis, with diminution of mineral constituents. F. B. Seibert.

Absorption of Tetanus Toxin by Brain Tissue of Animals of Various Ages. (*Journ. Immunol., vol. xxvii, p.* 515, 1934.) *Beebe, Agnes R.*

A definitely diminished capacity to remove tetanus toxin from solution *in vitro* was demonstrated for the brain tissue of the very young rabbit as compared with the adult animal, but only a suggestive difference was found to exist between young and old guinea-pigs in the ability of the brain to absorb tetanus toxin.
E. R. Long (Chem. Abstr.).