During the puerperium the hyperexcitability of the sympathetic persists, there is vagal hypoexcitability and the tone of the autonomic nervous system is diminished.
M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Juvenile Dementia Paralytica. XII : Gross and Microscopic Pathology. (*Arch. of Pathol., vol. xix, p.* 316, *March,* 1935.) *Menninger, W. C.*

The characteristic macroscopic changes in juvenile dementia paralytica include a generalized atrophy, often hypoplasia of the brain, a marked leptomeningitic reaction, frequent hydrocephalus, and extensive ependymitis granulosa ; frequent cerebellar atrophy. Because of proliferation of neuroglia both the cerebrum and cerebellum are usually very firm in consistency.

Microscopically there is a generalized round-cell infiltration, an extensive proliferation of neuroglia and microglia, an increase in vascularity with proliferative changes of the elements of the vessel wall, a reduction in the number of nerve-cells in the cortex and changes in the nerve-fibres. The frequent finding of bi-nucleated Purkinjë cells in the cerebellum is characteristic.

In a small percentage of cases spirochætes can be demonstrated in the cortex, basal ganglia and cerebellum. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Peculiar Cells in Pick's Disease. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxiv, p.* 508, *Sept.,* 1935.) *Williams, H. W.*

The three types of cell described in Pick's disease are not dependent on the senium or on specific ætiological agents for their development. A factor in their pathogenesis is axonal alteration which is of recent development and located in the vicinity of the cell of origin. There appears to be a close parallel between Pick's cells and axonal chromatolysis. Type II cells were more prominent in the less atrophic areas in Pick's disease and type I in the more atrophic region.

The term " Pick's cells " should be limited to those two types. Type III is rare and is not found in association with I and II, and resembles the early forms of Alzheimer's fibrillary changes. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Chemistry of the Brain in the Mental Defective. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psychopathol., vol. xv, p.* 193, *Jan.,* 1935.) *Ashby, W. R., and Glynn, A.*

The grey matter of the frontal lobe from 62 mental defective and 9 normal adults was analysed chemically. The water content showed a significant correlation with mental age, the normal brains being drier than those of defectives. The myelin content and the lipoids showed no change with mental age. The protein phosphorus showed a significant correlation with mental age, the defective's brains being richer in protein phosphorus than those of normal individuals. This latter may be explained by the presence of more immature nerve-cells lacking in cytoplasm or by an excess of neuroglia. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Reliability of the pH of Human Mixed Saliva as an Indicator of Physiological Changes. (*Amer. Journ. Psychol., vol. xlvii, p.* 222, *April,* 1935.) *Baker, K. H., and Eye, M. G.*

Noise, problem-solving and exercise all tend to bring about a decrease in the salivary pH. A positive correlation between salivary pH changes and blood pH changes after exercise was observed. There was a negative correlation between pH changes in the saliva and blood after moderate anoxæmia. Carbon dioxide is the primary factor in salivary pH changes, but there is a lack of correspondence between pH changes and pulmonary ventilation. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Share of the Basal Ganglia in Epilepsy [*La participación de los ganglios centrales en la epilepsia*]. (*La Semana Méd., vol. xlii, p.* 1433, *May* 16, 1935.) *Hanón, J. L.*

When we consider cerebral physiology, we are quickly forced to reject the hypothetical theories of localization—a pernicious influence to which is due the lack of

progress in these investigations. We must conceive a functional unity of the nervous system, and we shall find that such a conception is rich in possibilities for study. We must not be content with an examination of the cortex; we must look for anatomical lesions in the basal ganglia. If these ganglia suffer, in common with the other parts of the brain, vascular and nutritional changes, the fact should be manifested by structural alterations. Eight brains were studied. The results given by the study of five of these brains are presented. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Studies of the Urinary Excretion of Gonadal Stimulating Substances in Mental Patients. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xci, p.* 1237, *May*, 1935.) *Harris, M. M., Brand, E., and Hinsie, L. E.*

A group of 15 mental patients and 5 non-psychiatric subjects was investigated over long periods, regarding the total daily urinary excretion of gonadal-stimulating hormones. Female patients in the involutional period were found to excrete large amounts of this hormone, the level of excretion appearing to be more marked in the patients with the more marked mental disturbance. The excretion was neither continuous nor uniform. The male patients excreted the hormone only occasionally, and usually at approximately monthly intervals, this suggesting the presence of a sexual cycle in the male. The younger female patients excreted the hormone only at intervals, and in much smaller amount than those of the involutional group. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Status of Reticulo-endothel in Certain Psychoses. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xci, p.* 1433, *May*, 1935.) *Davidson, G. M.*

Outstanding features of the reticulo-endothelium are ability to produce blood, ability to act as phagocyte, and ability to retain electro-negative colloids. In certain cases of schizophrenia and manic-depressive psychosis definite hypofunction of the reticulo-endothelial system was found. Such a hypofunction will result in disturbance of most important items of metabolism. It is well known that there may be a remission of a psychosis following an intercurrent physical disease. Most commonly such a remission follows a physical state with a blood-picture of leucopenia, and leucopenia is believed to be an outcome of the action of negative chemotaxic agents upon the blood-cells. It may be that reactivation of the reticulo-endothelium may re-establish neuro-humoral equilibrium and proper metabolism of the nervous tissue. Colloid treatment of the reticulo-endothelium may thus be helpful in certain psychoses. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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7. Criminology.

Suicide by Means of Four Revolver Shots. (*Arch. di Antropol. Crim. Psychiat. e Med., vol. lv, p.* 586, *May–June*, 1935.) *Guareschi, G.*

The author illustrates a case of suicide by means of four revolver shots, self-inflicted, fired into the right temporo-parietal region. The first three involved the base of the skull without touching the brain. The fourth passed through both frontal lobes. He draws the conclusion that even severe wounds of the cranial bones are compatible with the performance of successive acts of an apparently voluntary nature. H. W. EDDISON.

The States of Doubt and Certainty in Relationship to Crimes of Jealousy. (*Arch. di Antropol. Crim., vol. liv, No.* 5, *p.* 708, 1934.) *di Fisco, S.*

The author gives a description of the state of doubt preceding certainty of infidelity on the part of the loved one, emphasizing the state of endopsychic tension