Water, Calcium and Potassium of the Grey and White Matter of the Brain in Experimental Tetany. (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxxiii, pp.* 831–3, 1936.) *Parhon, C. I., and Cahane, M.*

The Ca and K of the brains of both normal and thyro-parathyroidectomized dogs vary within such wide limits as to make the results rather uncertain. The averages for the limited number examined indicate that after the operation the Ca of the grey and white tissues and the K of the white tissues increases. Changes in water content are not significant. Analytical data are given.

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

Chronic Experimental Catatonia Produced by Intermediate Products of Metabolism: Indolethylamine. (*Proc. Acad. Sci. Amsterdam, vol. xxxix, pp.* 1151–3, 1936.) *Nieuwenhuyzen, F. J.*

Intravenous injection of 100–150 mgrm. of indolethylamine-HCl in 3-kgrm. cats caused salivation and narrowing of the pupils combined with negativism and catalepsy. J. R. NELLER (Chem. Abstr.).

Carbohydrate Metabolism in Nervous and Mental Disorders. II. A Comparison of the Hyperglycæmic Index and Choline Esterase Activity in Anxiety and Depressive States. (*Edinburgh Med. Journ., vol. xliv, pp.* 46–9, 1937.) *Tod, Henry, and Jones, Maxwell S.*

In a group of 60 depressive psychoses there was no apparent relation between the emotional state and the choline esterase activity. In anxiety states the choline esterase determination gives a more reliable index of emotional disturbance than does the hyperglycæmic index; the more acute the case the higher is the choline esterase. RACHEL BROWN (Chem. Abstr.).

The Carbohydrate Metabolism of Brain. III. The Origin of Lactic Acid. (*Journ. Biol. Chem., vol. cxvii, pp.* 217–25, 1937.) *Kerr, Stanley E., and Ghantus, Musa.*

The free fermentable sugar of mammalian brain disappears within 3 to 5 minutes during post-mortem autolysis and 80–85% of the glycogen is lost within 15 minutes. The amount of lactic acid formed during a 2-hour period of anaërobic incubation corresponds to the loss of glycogen and free sugar; during the first 3 minutes the lactic acid production corresponds to the combined fall of free sugar and glycogen, and after that to the glycogen loss alone. The lactic acid maximum in autolysed brain from hyperglycæmic dogs is approximately equal to the blood-sugar level at death, the precursors being the free sugar of brain (equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ of the blood-sugar level) and about 100 mgrm. of glycogen. In hypoglycæmic insulinized dogs the maximum, although low, is three times the blood-sugar level and again represents the amount of free sugar and glycogen available. It is concluded that both glycogen and the free sugar of the brain are precursors of lactic acid.

A. P. LOTHROP (Chem. Abstr.).

The Importance of the Mid-brain in Water Metabolism. (*Deutsch. med. Wochenschr., vol. lxii, pp.* 1905–8, 1936.) *Pette, H.*

The ingestion of a litre of fluid was fatal to two patients with brain tumours, due to the disturbed regulation of H_2O metabolism.

ARTHUR GROLLAM (Chem. Abstr.).

The Concentration and Excretion of Alcohol of Blood and Cerebro-spinal Fluid of Normal, Pellagric, Chronic and Acute Alcoholic Men and of Experimentally Alcoholic Animals. (*Zeitschr. Ges. Exptl. Med., vol. xcix, pp.* 341–51, 1936.) *Tomescu, P., and Dimolescu, A.*

A dose of 0·5 c.c. of 50% EtOH per kgrm. given to a series of patients was followed by determination of EtOH in blood and cerebro-spinal fluid. Pellagrins