

Barbiturates. (*Journ. Pharmacol.*, vol. lii, p. 70, 1934.) VII: *Experimental Analysis of Barbituric Action.* Koppányi, T., and Dille, J. M.

Rabbits acquire the ability to oxidize barbituric acid, whereas cats and dogs retain the drug in brain-cells and show cumulative depressive reactions on repeated doses. Albino rabbits are more susceptible to the toxic effects of barbituric acid than coloured rabbits.

T. H. RIDER (Chem. Abstr.).

Poisoning by Dial ; Treatment by Strychnine ; Cure. (*Medico-Legal Crim. Rev.*, vol. ii, p. 275, 1934.) Laignel-Lavastine and Bidou, S.

Description of a case of acute intoxication by 1 grm. of dial followed by recovery on treatment with strychnine (0.11 grm. administered altogether).

A. PAFINEAU-COUTURE (Chem. Abstr.).

7. Criminology.

Is there a Relation between Kleptomania and Female Periodicity in Neurotic Individuals? (*Psychol. Clinic*, vol. xxii, p. 232, 1933-34.) Middleton, W. C.

Genuine cases of kleptomania are exceedingly rare. The condition is subject to wide variation in definition and is amenable to unscientific diagnosis. The author had a patient, of ample means, who was often guilty of stealing during her menstrual periods, but apparently at no other time. A questionnaire was sent to a number of psychiatric specialists, asking the question indicated in the title. The replies indicated that menstruation does not appear to play a primary causal rôle. The general physical and psychical disturbances incidental to menstruation may be exciting factors. In this sense, kleptomania finds facilitated expression during the premenstrual and menstrual periods. Kleptomania, like other compulsive conditions, is found only in neurotic individuals.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

A Scientific Police Force [Policia Cientifica]. (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xli, p. 1271, Oct. 25, 1934.) Pierangeli, E.

There is a close relationship between medical and penal science. The former tends more and more to discard empirical methods, and seek the aid from ancillary sciences in prevention rather than cure. The latter is still content to deal with an offender after he has committed an offence, and to disregard the many complex factors which may have produced the commission of that offence. A long period of study is required before a candidate is allowed to undertake the removal or regulation of our teeth. The correction of social ills is no less important; but compare the training of a dental surgeon with that of a police official. The establishment of a police college is urgently required, with a period and quality of study equal to that of a university. Modern psychology, normal and abnormal, would be an important faculty in such a college.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Crimes of Unintelligible Motivation as Representing an Initial Symptom of an Insidiously Developing Schizophrenia. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. 91, p. 639, Nov., 1934.) Hackfield, A. W.

This study is based upon a series of 32 capital criminals under observation at Zurich. The cases are divided into three groups: (1) those who committed their crime while in a latent or manifest schizophrenia; (2) schizophrenic criminals who were treated medically instead of being sentenced to the penitentiary; (3) criminals diagnosed as psychopathic personalities, but who were declared responsible for their actions. Prison life had a deleterious effect upon those in Group I. In most cases, those in Group II have shown good remissions; prison life did not precipitate a psychosis in any case in Group III. In the prodromal stage of an insidiously developing schizophrenia, persons previously adjusted may commit