

by tumultuous irregularly distributed clonic movements not related to any pattern of running or stepping movements. If the cerebral circulation of heparinized blood was interrupted by clamping the tubing a decerebrate preparation was formed, and in this preparation, after picrotoxin, the convulsions were of the same character as occur in an ordinary decerebrate animal. The authors conclude that typical convulsions do occur in decerebrate animals, and that the character or degree of the tonic fit is dependent, not on the level of decerebration, but on the presence in a particular animal of certain tonic reflex patterns prior to the administration of the convulsant drug. The complete pattern of a convulsion necessitates a background of normally distributed tone and motor function. The clonic element of an experimentally produced convulsion is not due to the toxic stimulation of the cerebral cortex. Typical tonic and clonic convulsions can be produced in an animal in which the cerebral cortex is intact, but in which the brain-stem alone is stimulated by picrotoxin. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Studies in Epilepsy. VIII. The Clinical Effect of Fasting. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1928.) Lennox, W. G., and Cobb, S.

Twenty-seven patients subject to convulsions fasted for periods of from four to twenty-one days. In only one patient was there any permanent effect. In the majority, the seizures were absent or greatly reduced during the fast itself. The authors consider that fasting may be useful in helping patients over a period of frequent seizures, but is of most use as a means of inaugurating a high fat diet. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Hyperpnœa Test in Epilepsy. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, December, 1928.) Fettermann, J.

The author carried out experiments with hyperpnœa in epilepsy and found it of great value both in diagnosis and in localizing the lesion. Apnœa may be employed as a means of preventing fits. The author observed what he terms as "muscle ripple," which is a sign of increased irritability. He also found this sign in (1) a patient who had had a hæmorrhage into the pons, (2) a case of exophthalmic goitre, and (3) a patient who had chronic anterior poliomyelitis. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

2. Psychology and Psycho-Pathology.

A Theory of Circuit Integration; A Criticism of the "Centrally Aroused Process." (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, xl, No. 4, October, 1928.) Wheeler, R. H.

The issue raised in this paper is whether centrally aroused processes exist. The conclusion arrived at is negative and is based upon indications from experimental work on the brains of animals, the circuit concept of the reflex arc, the continuous functioning of the sense-organs, the prevalence of kinæsthesia in mental life, the