Studies on the Treatment of Acute Experimental Intoxications by Sodium Barbital. (*Boll. Soc. Ital. Biol. Sper., vol. viii, pp.* 1748–52, 1933.) *Savi, C.*

White rats were injected subcutaneously with 0·30–0·35 grm. and guinea-pigs intraperitoneally with 0·30–0·35 grm. sodium barbital per kgrm. body-weight. The influence of substances subsequently injected on the different phases of barbituric acid intoxication was determined by Launoy's method, in which the change of posture is taken as the criterion of the activity of various compounds. The results confirm the therapeutic action of thyroxine, strychnine, glucose, $Na_2S_2O_3$, lobeline and apomorphine on guinea-pigs or white rats intoxicated with sodium barbital. The only exception is picrotoxin, upon which further tests will be made.

P. Masucci (Chem. Abstr.).

Some Experimental Studies on Nembutal. (*Journ. Lab. Clin. Med., vol. xix, pp.* 738–42, 1934.) *Hemingway, M. W., van de Erve, J., and Booth, J. D.*

The administration of sufficient nembutal (pentobarbital-sodium) to produce anæsthesia, 1 grm. per 5 lb. body-weight, inhibits water diuresis in dogs. The blood-sugar content is slightly increased during the period of narcosis, but no changes in the urea-N, non-protein-N or total serum protein contents are observed. Nembutal appears to be an efficient and rapidly acting anæsthetic. It produces a shorter period of narcosis, and has a relatively shorter reacting time than other barbiturates.

E. R. Main (Chem. Abstr.).

Poisoning by Dial. (*Med. Klin., vol. xxix, pp.* 59–61, 1933.). *Leschke, E.*

Eight non-fatal and nine fatal cases of dial poisoning are described from the literature. The minimum fatal dose was 2 grm., but patients recovered from much larger doses without untoward results.

A. Papineau-Couture (Chem. Abstr.).

Estimation of Barbital in Urine. (*Pharm. Zentralhalle, vol. lxxv, pp.* 226–8, 1934.) *Straub, J., and Mihalovits, E.*

Of the various available methods for this purpose, that of van Italie and Steenhauer has proved the most satisfactory. Even this method can be improved. A simplified procedure is suggested for isolating the barbital in a much purer condition. By starting with a larger quantity (400 c.c.) of urine it is possible to determine very small amounts of barbital (0·012%), the separation of which from 100 c.c. of urine by the original method involved considerable error.

W. O. E. (Chem. Abstr.).

Detection and Distribution of Soporifics in the Brain. (*Pharm. Monats., vol. xv, pp.* 64–8, 1934.) *Fischer, A., and Hauschild, A.*

A method is described whereby the distribution of barbital and phenobarbital in two human and fourteen canine brains is determined. The brain is extracted with ether; this extract is purified and the residue is sublimed. The micro-sublimate is weighed and the micro-melting point is determined. The drugs are found chiefly in the cerebrum and brain-stem. Barbital is also present in the cerebellum, but is absent in the spinal cord; the reverse is true of phenobarbital.

H. M. Burlage (Chem. Abstr.).

Comparative Action of Hypnotics on the Isolated Nervous System of Rana esculenta. (*Arch. Intern. Pharmacodynanie, vol. xlvi, pp.* 425, 1933.) *Rabbeno, A., and Ruffini, V.*

The " anterior preparation of Herlitzka " is a sensitive biological method of testing hypnotics. " Sandoptal " (sodium isobutylallylmalonylurea) and " clorolosis " present the maximum narcotic power for this preparation. Ethyl urethane and sodium barbital show minimal activity. P. F. Metildi (Chem. Abstr.)