of successive sugar curves, or abnormal fluctuations in the renal threshold for sugar. There is no evidence from the authors' data that abnormality of carbohydrate metabolism might in itself induce seizures. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Erythrocyte Sedimentation Reaction. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., January*, 1928.) *Goldwyn, J.*

The acceleration of the reaction depends upon the amount of mental deterioration, the amount of organic destruction and the amount of toxicity present. Unless the cases are complicated by physical disease, the sedimentation reactions are normal in cases of manic-depressive psychoses, psychopathic personalities, psychoneuroses and paranoia. Increased readings are found in all cases of senile psychoses, psychoses due to cerebral arterio-sclerosis, general paralysis, neurosyphilis, psychoses showing mental deficiency or somatic disease, acute types of alcoholic psychoses, and in many cases of epileptic psychoses and involutional melancholia. In dementia præcox the simple and paranoid types tend to give normal readings, while the hebephrenic and chiefly the catatonic types tend to give slightly accelerated reactions. No case of dementia præcox gave a marked increase unless complicated by some physical disorder. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

On the Pathology and Laboratory Diagnosis of Paresis. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis., January*, 1928.) *Proescher, F., and Arkush, A.*

After summarizing the recent work of Spatz and Steiner, the authors give the results of their own methods of staining with thiazin red. Iron from the destruction of ganglion cells in the cortex is phagocytosed by the Hortega cells. These iron-containing cells then float into the perivascular spaces and gain the cerebrospinal fluid, where they can be demonstrated by centrifuging 5–10 c.c. To the sediment is added 5 c.c. of an alcoholic ammonium hydroxide sulphide solution made up as follows:

96% alcohol	95 c.c.
Aqueous solution of ammonium hydrosulphide	5 c.c.

This is then centrifuged, and a few drops of the sediment examined on slides under a cover-glass with a high dry objective. The iron which is of diagnostic value exists only in the adventitial cells, which appear large, irregular and refractile. The pigment is generally in the form of large angular or rounded granules which are deep black. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Kafka Paraffin Reaction in the Spinal Fluid. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., January*, 1928.) *Karnosh, L. J. O., and Rademakers, A. J.*

The authors recommend the paraffin reaction and find that the results are similar to the gum mastic reaction, but the technique is more difficult because of the temperature requirements.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.