

provides visual proof of the atrophies, present mainly in the frontoparietal area. Dehydration offers a means of improving the mental condition, both in adults and in children.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

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#### 4. Pathology.

*The Effect of Dehydration on Parotid Secretion.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, October, 1930.) Winsor, A. L.

The beneficial effect of dehydration in preventing epileptic seizures in some cases studied suggested the need for an investigation of the influence of a low-water balance on mental behaviour. A method for determining the state of liquid exchange through a quantitative analysis of parotid secretion under different exciting situations was presented, and the normal progress of dehydration when the intake of fluid was materially reduced over a period of 70 hours was charted.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*"Genuine Epilepsy": Studies of the Microscopic Changes in the Capillary System as a Probable Ætiological Factor.* (*Journ. of Nerve and Ment. Dis.*, November, 1930.) Alkon, D. M.

The author considers that brain trauma with capillary hæmorrhages sustained during birth is in many instances sufficient to give rise to a metabolic imbalance in susceptible individuals and thus lead up to the convulsive state.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Basal Metabolic Rate in Untreated and Treated Patients with Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, December, 1930.) Notkin, J.

In a group of 50 untreated epileptics, Notkin found that the basal metabolic rate was normal in a high percentage in both sexes. The group with a rate below -10 was smaller than some other workers have found. There was a higher percentage of below -10 in the female group than in the male group. There was no correlation between the age and the basal metabolic rate. The basal metabolic rate in a group of 16 epileptics treated with luminal showed a considerable decrease in the percentage of normal readings, and a three-fold increase of the percentage of readings below -10. Luminal thus definitely decreases the basal metabolism. The basal metabolic rate in a group of patients treated with bromide showed similar changes.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Studies in Epilepsy. XI. The Calcium Content of the Blood and of the Spinal Fluid.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, December, 1930.) Lennox, W. G., and Allen, M.B.

The authors investigated the serum and spinal fluid calcium of 77 unselected patients subject to recurring convulsions. Average