different affections of the nervous system and to ascribe them to the same causal factor, which he suggests may be a filter-passer.

W. McC. HARROWES.

Catatonic and Parkinsonian Syndromes Induced by the Action of Amines. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., January–February*, 1929.) *Buscaino, V. M.*

The author discusses the chemical constitution of bulbocapnine and mescaline, and draws attention to their property of giving rise to symptoms of dementia præcox and Parkinsonism, which symptoms are regarded by him as an expression of amine-toxicosis.

H. W. EDDISON.

Post-encephalitic Parkinsonism as a Chronic Infection. (*Journ. of Neur. and Psychopath., April*, 1929.) *Hill, T. R.*

The balance of evidence is in favour of a persistence of the infection in many chronic cases; but the activity is very low, and the process often dies out completely. Active infection may be present for a considerable length of time before any signs of disease occur. It is advisable to treat all cases of epidemic encephalitis as cases of active infection. The symptoms must be regarded as due to neuronal destruction. No remission can be expected from treatment of the active infection, even if it were successful; the most to be hoped for is inhibition of its progress.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Epilepto-Parkinsonian Encephalitic Syndrome [*Syndrome comitio-Parkinsonien encéphalitique*]. (*Soc. Clin. de Méd. Ment., July*, 1929.) *Marchand, L., Courtois, A., and Lalan, J.*

A very full neurological description of an obscure case in which progressive Parkinsonianism was associated with epileptiform attacks.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

Cerebello-pyramidal and Mental Syndrome in the course of Varicella. [*Syndrome cérébello-pyramidal et mental au cours de la varicelle*]. (*Journ. Neur. et Psychiat., January*, 1930.) *Vermeylen, G., van Bogaert, L., and Vervaeck, P.*

The case described showed, in addition to manic-depressive symptoms, ataxia, nystagmus, ocular palsy, increased deep reflexes and a positive double Babinski. The case is fully discussed, and there are many references to neurological complications associated with varicella.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

Considerations Regarding Extrapyramidal Epilepsy. [*Considérations sur l'épilepsie extrapyramidale*]. (*L'Encéphale, March*, 1930.) *Villaverde, José Maria de.*

The basis to some extent of this article is the statement by Binswanger that "the whole epileptic attack may be explained by the putting in action of certain sub-cortical centres."

The article is accompanied by a very large bibliography and contains many references to the literature.

The author quotes a number of cases, personal and otherwise. Many of them present the common enough characteristics of loss of consciousness with a seizure and more or less rigidity, but without any of the signs of pyramidal disturbances which are associated with ordinary epileptic attacks, and his thesis is that such conditions are due to some disturbance of centres lower down in the hierarchy of nervous activity than the cortex. He suggests that the pallidum, the lenticular area and the corpus Luysii, which are responsible for convulsions in infants, are also the seat of the lesions producing this type of epilepsy.

W. McC. HARROWES.

Vagotonia and Cortical Epilepsy [*Vagotonie et épilepsie corticale: recherches expérimentales*]. (*L'Encéphale, July–August*, 1929.) *Santenoise, D., Vare, P., Verdier, H., and Vidacovitch, M.*

This work is an indication of the strong tendency in French psychiatric circles to invoke disturbance of the vaso-vegetative system as a mechanism in a great many types of disturbance. Here the authors attempt to relate epilepsy and organo-vegetative disturbances. In this connection previous work on the relation between the oculo-cardiac reflex and epilepsy is mentioned, and hyper-vagotonia has been supposed to play a pathogenic *rôle* in the production of epileptic crises. Animal experiments by these authors have indicated that smaller electrical stimuli are sufficient to produce epileptic crises in vagotonic animals, or where the cerebral excitability has been influenced by pharmacodynamic agents acting on the vagus. They have discovered that as a general rule vagotonics have a low, and hypo-vagotonics a high chronaxy, and that the relation between the chronaxy and the amount of electrical stimulation necessary to produce an epileptic seizure is one of direct proportion. They show that the vagus has some influence upon the general chronaxial level by conditioning the production of what they call a thyro-hormone, and that under the influence of this, different degrees of excitability are produced. Their experiments can be grouped under various headings. They give the results of vago-section, the effect of pharmacodynamic agents producing vagotonia, and the effect of the administration of thyroid extracts. They feel that the results of their experiments indicate definitely that there is a connection between vagotonia and epileptic predisposition, partly by the action of the vagus in some indirect way upon psycho-motor centres, partly by the action of the vagus in producing a thyroid secretion, which influences the chronaxy of the psycho-motor centres. In short, there is a parallelism between the excitability of the pneumogastric nuclei and the excitability of the motor cell areas. The research has all the appearance of being extremely painstaking and has been very carefully worked out. It is felt, however, that their original thesis with reference to the oculo-cardiac reflex detracts from the value of their work. This reflex is definitely