

*The Effect of a Deficiency of Vitamin B upon the Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems of the Rat.* (*Amer. Journ. Physiol.*, vol. cvii, p. 459, 1934.) Prickett, C. O.

The site of the lesion responsible for the symptoms associated with lack of vitamin B in the rat is in the central rather than in the peripheral nervous system.  
J. F. LYMAN (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Black Reaction in the Urine of Epileptics Subject to Starvation and Subsequent Ketogenic Diet* [*Reazione nera nelle urine di epilettici sottoposti a digiuno e successivamente a dieta chetogena*]. (*Il Cervello*, vol. xiii, p. 158, May, 1934.) Armenise, P.

The author investigated Buscaino's black reaction in the urine of 30 epileptics and 4 mental defectives, all of them being in good health. He found that starvation for 48 hours followed by the ketogenic diet exerted an inhibitory effect on the black reaction. An insufficient diet and starvation produce indefinite effects.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

### 8. Criminology.

*Evaluation of Collective Dangers* [*Valoración de la peligrosidad colectiva*]. (*Arch. de Neurobiol.*, vol. xiii, p. 837, 1933.) Morales, E. G.

The percentages of delinquencies of various kinds, of suicides and of psychotic patients vary greatly, both absolutely and inter-relatively, in districts of different density of population; and they also differ in relation to the economic condition, the general "culture" and the accessibility of the district. It is thus clear that social evils are the result of complex extraneous factors. Successful prophylaxis depends upon careful statistical studies.  
M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Handwriting of Criminals.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxii, p. 350, Aug., 1934.) Quinan, C.

The writer investigated the handwriting of a mixed group of criminals, paying attention to speed and configuration. His group of 100 normal controls was as diversified as possible. The criminals consisted of 100 murderers and 100 forgers. In addition there were added 6 abattoir slaughterers. The average speeds of normals, forgers and murderers were 48.6, 68.0 and 101.19 seconds, showing bradygraphia to be characteristic of murderers. The total angularity figures obtained for these groups were 283, 286 and 469. For this reason the writing of murderers was unsightly and wanting in roundness—the quality that distinguishes the writings of forgers. The writings of the abattoir slaughterers were similar in every respect to that of the murderers.  
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.