fluid and that of the plasma in man. The concentrations in the spinal fluid are from 50–80% of those of the plasma. When plasma is dialysed *in vitro* against spinal fluid from the same subject, this unequal distribution of urea is not obtained. These results the author regards as evidence against the view that the spinal fluid is produced solely by ultra-filtration of the plasma.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Behaviour of the Alkaline Reserve of the Blood and of the Urinary pH in Epileptics in the Inter-paroxysmal Period and During the Seizure. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., November–December*, 1930.) *di Renzo, F.*

The author found, from observation of 21 patients, that the epileptic convulsion is preceded by a rise in the alkaline reserve of the blood. Immediately before the fit the alkaline reserve returns to normal and remains at this level throughout the fit. The urinary pH behaves in a similar manner. The fit appears to coincide with the sudden throwing into the blood-stream of a quantity of acid, which brings down the increase in the alkaline reserve and increases the amount of calcium ions in the blood-serum.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Velocity of Blood Sedimentation in Schizophrenia. (*Il Cervello, May*, 1931.) *Zara, E.*

The author determined the blood sedimentation by a modified Plaut method in 100 cases of schizophrenia. He found, as several investigators had done before him, that there is generally a definite increase in the rate of sedimentation. The increase is largely due to some toxi-infective factor, particularly tuberculosis, though there may be other factors at work.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Blood and Urine Calcium in Dementia Præcox. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., November–December*, 1930.) *Gullotta, S.*

The author found in recent cases of dementia præcox an increase of the blood-calcium; in quiet chronic cases it varied within normal limits, in agitated chronic cases there was an increase, and in catatonic stuporose cases there was an actual decrease. The elimination of calcium in the urine followed more or less closely the behaviour of the blood-calcium. The author thinks, in common with Scuola and Zurigo, that the decrease in the calcium in catatonic stupor depends on the action of substances of amine nature on the basal ganglia. The increase of calcium in recent cases of dementia præcox is considered to be an indication of hepatic insufficiency.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Korsakov's Syndrome: Its Histopathology. (*Brain, June*, 1931.) *Carmichael, E. A., and Stern, R. O.*

The authors examined pathologically 5 cases of alcoholic Korsakov's syndrome. They found a widespread deposit of