

Diabetes Insipidus (Il diabete insipido). (*Riv. di Neur.*, vol. ix, p. 263, Aug., 1936.) *Salmon, A.*

The author discusses the three fundamental factors in the ætiology of the disease:

- (1) The polyuric centre in the diencephalon.
- (2) The pituitary factor in the posterior lobe. He refers to the frequency of polyuria in acromegaly, the adiposogenital dystrophy, etc.
- (3) The suprarenal factor, influencing the saline content of the urine, the arterial tension and other functions.

H. W. EDDISON.

Magnesium Salts in Treatment [Sali di magnesio in terapia psichiatrica]. (*Rass. di Studi Psichiat.*, vol. xxv, p. 788, Sept.-Oct., 1936.) *Mossa, G.*

Magnesium sulphate in doses of 10 c.c. of a 10% or 15% solution is injected intravenously. It is said to be particularly useful in the excitement of manic-depressive cases and epileptics. Anæsthesia for pain and temperature, muscular relaxation and abolition of superficial reflexes are transient results of the injections. The systolic blood-pressure falls slightly, especially in cases with hypertension, but the diastolic pressure is hardly affected. These signs disappear in about an hour, but the patient remains calm and quiet, though fully conscious all the time until normal sleep follows. No ill-effect has been noted.

H. W. EDDISON.

The Orthophosphoric Acid Reaction in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid [La reazione all'acido ortofosforico sul liquido encefalo-rachidiano]. (*Rass. di Studi Psichiat.*, vol. xxv, p. 714, Sept.-Oct., 1936.) *Galli, G. M.*

The reaction in the cerebro-spinal fluid is found to be positive in 90% of syphilitic cases, but it is by no means specific. It may be positive in disseminated sclerosis, meningitis, peripheral neuritis and other conditions.

The material investigated consisted of 206 fluids from various neurological and psychiatric cases.

H. W. EDDISON.

The Connective Tissue Reaction in Multiple and Diffuse Sclerosis. (*Arch. of Path.*, vol. xxiii, p. 338, Mar., 1937.) *King, L. S.*

The writer found in every one of 13 cases of multiple sclerosis networks of argyrophil connective-tissue fibres growing diffusely into the parenchyma. The extent of this growth varied from case to case and even from plaque to plaque. In part the reticulin nets grew from blood-vessels of small calibre, predominantly capillaries and precapillaries, in part they appeared to grow independently of pre-existing reticulin. Diffuse reticulin invasion may be one of the early pathological reactions in multiple sclerosis, and is found not only in the white matter but in the cerebral cortex and other grey masses. The growths are related to the disintegration of myelin, with the intensity of the process playing some role. Such reticulin nets bear no correlation with the degree of gliosis, of axis-cylinder destruction or of perivascular infiltration.

Eleven cases of diffuse sclerosis were divided into three groups, of which the first showed no reticulin nets, the second a slight or moderate growth similar to that in multiple sclerosis, and the third a profound growth, showing qualitative as well as quantitative differences from that in multiple sclerosis.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Lesions of the Nervous System of the Rat in Vitamin B Deficiency. (*Arch. of Path.*, vol. xxiii, p. 207, Feb., 1937.) *Davison, C., and Stone, L.*

Diets deficient in vitamin B₁ or in vitamins B₁ and B₂ (totally and subtotally deficient) result in the rat in neurological signs, such as dragging and paralysis of the extremities, equilibratory disturbances, priapism, convulsions and tonic retractions of the head. Pathologically the outstanding picture is that of disintegration of