

*Body Acidity as Related to Emotional Excitability.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, September, 1928.) Rich, G. F.

The author examined amongst other features the H-ion concentration of the saliva, the acidity of the urine, the alkali reserve of the blood, the creatinine content of the blood and the creatinine excretion in the urine. Definite results were obtained only in cases with aggressiveness and emotional excitability. Rich found that the least excitable persons tend to have the most acid saliva, while the most excitable tend toward neutrality or even alkalinity of the saliva. Less excitable persons tend to have a more acid urine.

The author quotes the effect of the ketogenic diet in epilepsy as additional verification of the relation between acidity and excitability. With regard to creatinine, the more excitable persons tend to produce less creatinine. The alkali reserve of the blood does not show any tendency to vary with emotional excitability, but the alkali reserve of the blood as well as the amino-acids of the urine correlate negatively with ratings of aggressiveness. The author thinks that possibly the products of metabolism of other tissues may act as internal secretions and continually stimulate or depress the nervous system.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Sugar Content of the Blood in Emotional States.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, February, 1929.) Bowman, K. M., and Kasanin, J.

The authors found that in persons with mental disease the blood-sugar during fasting is usually within normal limits. There is no correlation between the mood of the patient and the height of the blood-sugar. That the blood-sugar content is not increased in psychotic patients with abnormal emotional states may be accounted for on the following hypotheses: (1) Lowered kidney threshold; (2) depletion of the glycogen content of the liver; (3) emotion in the psychotic patient may be a qualitatively different condition from emotion in a normal person.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Blood-Sugar Reaction to Insulin in Psychoses.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, January, 1929.) Appel, K. E., and Farr, C. B.

The authors found that in psychotics a relatively sharp fall of 29% occurs in the majority of cases within 90 minutes. The recovery process is more gradual and is not complete in 3½ hours. There is no difference between the reactions of patients with affective and those with schizophrenic psychoses. The type of reaction closely resembles that occurring in subjects who are under weight.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Studies in Epilepsy. VII. The Basal Metabolism.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1928.) Lennox, W. G., and Wright, L. H.

The authors measured the basal metabolic rate in 130 patients with epilepsy. They found the average rate to be 3% below standard.

31% of cases were outside the "normal" zone of 10% above or below standard. 23% were 10% or more and 12% were 15% or more below standard. In certain of the patients the low rates could be explained by a disturbed function of the pituitary gland; in others the organs were probably functioning below their normal level because of poor musculature and faulty posture.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Brain-Liver Weight Ratio in Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1928.) Patterson, H. A., and Weingrow, S. M.

It has been stated that the brain-liver weight ratio in epilepsy, is greater than unity, whereas in the normal individual it is about '87. The authors' series consisted of 368 cases, of which 250 were non-emaciated persons with idiopathic epilepsy, 42 non-emaciated persons with non-idiopathic epilepsy, and 76 emaciated persons with idiopathic epilepsy. In the series with idiopathic epilepsy the weight of the liver fell below normal in 70% of the cases analysed. In the series with non-idiopathic epilepsy the weight of the liver fell below normal in 71·4% of cases. When both emaciation and epilepsy were present the weight of the liver was below normal in 85·5% of cases.

The authors conclude that the brain-liver weight ratio is not constant in epilepsy.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Weight of the Pancreas and the Ratio of the Weight of the Brain to that of the Pancreas in Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, January, 1929.) Patterson, H. A., and Weingrow, S. M.

The authors examined 378 cases, which fell into three groups: (a) Idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation, 277 cases; (b) non-idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation, 14 cases; and (c) idiopathic epilepsy with emaciation, 87 cases. All were over 16 years of age at the time of death. The normal weight of the pancreas is stated to lie between 60–120 grm. In all three groups the weight range of the pancreas exceeds the limits accepted as normal, being wider in the cases of idiopathic epilepsy. In idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation the weight increases with retardation in onset, up to the age of 40; after that it shows a decline in weight. The cases of idiopathic and non-idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation show no relationship between the weight of the pancreas and the duration of the disease. When the weights of the brains in a series are arranged in order of ascending magnitude, the corresponding weights of the pancreas assume the same order in the group of cases of idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation, but not the other groups.

In the cases of idiopathic epilepsy without emaciation the weight of the pancreas fell below normal in 37·5%, while the weight of the brain fell below normal in 48·4%. In the cases of idiopathic epilepsy with emaciation the weight of the pancreas fell below normal in 58·6%, while the weight of the brain fell below normal