extremely unusual in epidemic encephalitis. The character of the cerebro-spinal fluid is unlike that in other acute disease processes. Except in the fourth case there was an absence of organic constituents. The shorter the period of incubation the more acute and intense is the disease process. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Millon's Reaction in the Urine of Toxic Psychoses. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., May*, 1928.) *Scheiner, E.*

Dilutions of the urine from 1 in 10 down to 1 in 150 are made with distilled water, and tested by warming with one drop of Millon's reagent. A rose-red coloured precipitate denotes a positive result, and the lowest dilution in which this occurs is noted.

In alcoholic, post-infective and post-puerperal psychoses and in hebephrenic-katatonic cases of dementia præcox the urine constantly contains a substance whose chief characteristic is a positive Millon's reaction.

This substance is neither free phenol, nor an oxy-aromatic acid, nor tyrosine. The appearance of this substance in the urine is usually accompanied by that of other products of abnormal metabolism, like urobilin and urobilinogen, which signify a disturbance of the liver-cells. The author also considers that the black reaction of Buscaino is due to a substance which originates in an alteration of liver function. The reaction of Millon in the urine probably signifies a process of destruction (necrosis ?) in the liver-cells.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Colloidal Gold Reactions with Spinal Fluids Contaminated with Blood. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., February*, 1928.) *Mehrtens, H. G., Wyckoff, H. A., and Davis, R. M.*

Spinal fluids which are contaminated with blood, but from which the cells are removed by centrifuging before hæmolysis occurs, produce a colloidal gold curve altered in intensity only; the type of the curve remains the same. When spinal fluids from patients with general paralysis, made normal by treatment, are contaminated with blood-plasma, they show a tendency to revert to the former paralytic type of curve. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Colloidal Reaction of Takata-Ara. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., May*, 1928.) *Uguccioni, G.*

For the colloidal reaction of Takata-Ara three solutions are required—a 10% solution of sodium carbonate, a 0·5% solution of mercuric chloride, and a 0·02% solution of Grübler's basic fuchsin.

To 1 c.c. of cerebro-spinal fluid add 1 drop of the sodium carbonate solution, and then, with a graduated 1 c.c. pipette, 0·3 c.c. of a mixture of equal parts of the mercuric chloride and fuchsin solutions, freshly mixed, shaking after the addition of each few drops of reagent.

The results are read after five minutes, half an hour and twelve hours. Two different types of reaction occur in positive fluids—a metasyphilitic type where there is flocculation and a violet-blue colour, and a meningitic type in which there is a diffuse red colour