The Adrenalin Glycæmic Curve as a Diagnostic Aid in Psychiatry. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychiat., September*, 1927.) *Gordon, H., Ostrander, J. M., and Counsell, S.*

The authors, after discussing the results of other investigators on blood-sugar in the psychoses, give their own results by means of the adrenalin glycæmic curve. In manic-depressive psychoses the curves showed a relatively well-defined peak and delayed return of the blood-sugar to the initial level. In dementia præcox the curves show more or less of a plateau, and a quicker return to the fasting level. In a small series with hepatic disease the curves tend to become flat, and show a terminal rise. In the endocrinopathies a similar curve is obtained. The authors consider the test a means of differentiating between manic-depressive and schizophrenic cases. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Observations on Experimental Convulsions, with Special Reference to Permeability Changes. (*Amer. Journ. of Psychiat., September*, 1927.) *Syz, H. C.*

The author, basing his theories on the work of Abel some 15 years ago, investigated the action of acid fuchsin and other dyes by means of damage to the nervous system by asphyxiation. He found that there was increased permeability to the dye and a tendency to convulsions. The fact that brain injury as well as asphyxia increases the effect of acid fuchsin suggests that there must be some factor in addition to permeability changes. In asphyxia the accumulation of waste products and the change of the acid-base balance increase the permeability of the cerebral vessels, and so allow the passage of water-soluble substances from the blood into the surrounding nervous substance. Georgi points out that the influence of alcohol and of certain diets on convulsive phenomena may be due in part to permeability changes.

The author's results support the theory that changes in permeability of the vessel walls play some part in the epileptic seizure. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

1. *Studies of Metabolism in Epilepsy. II, The Sugar Content of the Blood.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., September*, 1927.) *Lennox, W. G., O'Connor, M., and Bellinger, M.*
2. *III, The Blood-Sugar Curve.* (*Ibid.*) *Lennox, W. G., and Bellinger, M.*

1. Tests in 267 epileptics showed no abnormality of the blood-sugar, and no direct relation between the blood-sugar level and seizures. The increase of blood-sugar during convulsions may depend on the presence of available glucose in the body.

2. Of 140 epileptics, 24% showed abnormally high blood-sugar curves, 6% abnormally low, and 70% normal curves. About 10% had high sugar curves which could not be accounted for by coincident disease conditions, and which remained high on repeated examination. These patients were probably potential diabetics. A larger percentage showed marked variation in the form and level