Passage into the Brain and Spinal Fluid of Urea Injected Intravenously. (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxxvii, pp.* 16–17, 1938.) *Riser, M., Valdiguié, P., and Guiraud, J.*

The urea passes quickly into the brain and muscles and reaches the same concentration in both. Passage into the spinal fluid is slow and reaches the maximum in about 3 hours (dog). L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

The Action of Narcotics on the Brain Centre Regulating Osmotic Pressure of the Blood. (*Jikken. Yakubuts. Z., vol. xii, pp.* 1–19, 1936; *Japan. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. iv; Pharmacol., vol. x; Abstracts,* 14.) *Yamada, T.*

Injection of hypertonic 3% sodium chloride solution into the carotid arteries of rabbits causes a fall in osmotic pressure of the blood, whereas injection of hypotonic 0·2% solution produces an increase. This response by the regulating centre in the brain is paralysed by antipyrine, urethane, chloral hydrate, veronal and ether. Scopolamine depresses control of osmotic pressure of the carotid blood by its action on the parasympathetic nerve-endings that control osmotic pressure, not by central action. JAMES C. MUNCH (Chem. Abstr.).

The Influence of Urethane Narcosis on the Blood-pressure of Rabbits. (*Chiba Igk. Z., vol. xiv, pp.* 2747–67, 1936. *Japan. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. vi; Pharmacol., vol. x; Abstracts,* 23.) *Nuki, B., Ohashi, M., and Wada, K.*

By connecting a Hg manometer to the carotid artery of a normal, unanæsthetized rabbit, the average blood-pressure was found to be 113·6 mm. Hg, slowly decreasing about 16 mm. during one hour. Urethane narcosis produced a slight fall, although a few rabbits showed an increase in blood-pressure; the heart was stimulated in all animals. By a bloodless method of measuring pressure in the marginal ear artery the average pressure was 74·7 mm. Hg, and did not decrease during one hour in the normal or in the urethanized rabbits.

JAMES C. MUNCH (Chem. Abstr.).

The Neuromuscular Junction. VII: The Eserine-like Effects of Barium on Motor Nerve-endings. (*Chinese Journ. Physiol., vol. xii, pp.* 177–96, 1936.) *Feng, T. P.*

In its action on motor nerve-ending barium bears a striking resemblance to eserine. This action can only be accounted for on the basis of the chemical-mediation theory of neuromuscular transmission, as is the case for eserine. It is suggested, however, that with barium there is a continued leakage of acetylcholine from the nerve-ending, in contrast to a single liberation with eserine.

L. A. M. (Chem. Abstr.).

Comparative Study of two Short-acting Barbituric Acid Derivatives. (*Journ. Amer. Pharm. Assoc., vol. xxvi, pp.* 1248–9, 1937.) *Swanson, E. E., and Fry, Wm. E.*

A more extensive comparative study of "seconal" and of "sodium amytal" showed that (1) in all animals seconal had a distinctly smaller minimum anæsthetic dose and minimum lethal dose than sodium amytal; (2) except in mice seconal has a shorter duration of action than so dium amytal; (3) as the size of the animal increases, the duration of action of seconal diminishes more significantly than that of sodium amytal. A. PAPINEAU-COUTURE (Chem. Abstr.).

Ophthalmic Reaction to Tryparsamide in the Treatment of Neurosyphilis. (*Rhode Island Med. Journ., vol. xx, pp.* 169–74, 1937.) *Muncy, W. M.*

From a study of 40 cases of neurosyphilis treated with tryparsamide, it is concluded that eye reactions to the drug cannot be anticipated from the condition of the eyes before treatment, but apparently are due to individual idiosyncrasy or

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