

there is an increase and deposition of diamino-phosphatides. Possibly these diseases are caused by a disturbance in the equilibrium between cerebrosidase and diamino-phosphatase.

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*Phosphatases of the Brain.* (*Current Sci.*, vol. iv, p. 324, 1935.) Venkata Giri, K., and Datta, N. C.

The alkaline phosphatase from sheep brain has an optimal reaction of pH 9.6, and is activated by magnesium ions, the increases in activity exceeding 100% when magnesium is added in optimal quantities (0.001 M-0.002 M). The acid phosphatase, from the same source, which has an optimal reaction of pH 5.0 is not activated by magnesium and resembles the urinary and salivary phosphatases. Waldschmidt-Leitz and Nonnenbruch suggest that the acid phosphatase demonstrated by Bamann and Riedell is due to the presence of erythrocytes in their extracts. This appears to be untenable, because the erythrocyte phosphatase is activated by magnesium salts, while the acid phosphatase extracted from the brain is not so activated.

W. J. PETERSON (Chem. Abstr.).

*Cerebroside Cysts in the Frontal Skull Cavity.* (*Z. Physiol. Chem.*, vol. ccxxxviii, pp. 31-4, 1936.) Tropp, C., and Eckardt, B.

The contents of a frontal cyst of 300 c.c. vol. showed no spectroscopic evidence of blood-pigments and only traces of Fe, but gave a strong reaction for sugar and high sugar values after hydrolysis. Reactions for cholesterol and phosphorus were negative; protein was positive. The main constituent of the dry residue was a cerebroside mixture containing cerebrin and kersin in about equal proportions. For this type of cyst the name "cerebrosidoma" is proposed.

A. W. DOX (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Nature of the Union of the Sodium and Potassium in the Grey Matter of the Human Brain.* (*Journ. Physiol. U.S.S.R.*, vol. xix, pp. 571-4, 1935.) Georgievskaya, L. M.

The sodium and potassium of the grey matter of the cortex are quantitatively separated by electro-dialysis. The sodium and potassium, therefore, occur in the brain in a salt-like combination.

H. COHEN (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Alleged Occurrence of "Krampfstoffe" (Convulsants) in Acetone Extracts of Mammalian Brain.* (*Journ. Physiol.*, vol. lxxxv, pp. 400-8, 1935.) Holmes, E.

The effects of the intravenous injection into animals of the material obtained from the fresh brains of animals, killed during convulsions, by acetone extraction observed by Kroll (*Z. ges. Neur. u. Psychiat.*, vol. cxliii, p. 780; vol. cxlvi, p. 208; vol. cxlvii, p. 316, 1933), and attributed by him to the presence of a substance affecting the central nervous system, are not due to any such effects, but are the result of a depressant action of the material on the heart.

E. D. WALTER (Chem. Abstr.).

*Biochemical Investigations on the Summer Encephalitis in Japan.* (*Fukuoka-Ikwadaigaku-Zasshi*, vol. xxvii, pp. 1499-1522, 1934.) Naka, A., Okumura, N., and Kakiyama, G.

Biochemical study was made upon 30 cases of summer encephalitis. In the delirious and comatose state most of the patients showed a mild or high degree of blood acidosis, but in convalescence the blood seemed to incline toward alkalosis. This acidosis was mostly compensated because the blood pH showed no distinct reduction. The pH of the spinal fluid seemed to increase, i.e., turned more to the alkaline side. Most patients showed slight but seldom high hyperglycemia. The albumen of the spinal fluid increased slightly, but it did not reach the pathological limit. The residual nitrogen of the fluid greatly increased.

K. SUGIURA (Chem. Abstr.).