

schizophrenics. The values of the serum varied between 20–40 diastatic units and showed no variation with the nature of the psychosis.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Presence of Amylase in the Blood and in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in Neuro-syphilis* [Sulla presenza dell'amilasi nel sangue e nel liquor nella neurosifilide]. (*Riv. di Neur.*, vol. vii, p. 53, Feb., 1934.) Disana, G.

The author examined the blood and spinal fluids of 62 cases of neuro-syphilis. He did not confirm the results of Kafka and Hayashi, who found an increase in the amylase in general paralytics, the latter writer particularly in remissions. On the other hand he did not obtain the completely negative results recorded by Marchionini and Othenstein. In cured cases of neuro-syphilis the author found negative results in only one-third of the cases.

The amylolytic value of the serum was increased above normal in all his cases. No constant relationship between the amylolytic values of the spinal fluid and the blood was ascertained.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Spirochaetes in the Spinal Fluid in General Paralysis after Artificially Produced Meningeal Reactions* [Le spirochete nel liquor dei paralitici progressivi in seguito a reazioni meningeche acute artificialmente provocate]. (*Riv. di Neur.*, vol. vii, p. 65, Feb., 1934.) Vizioli, F.

The author found that after aseptic meningitis produced by doubly distilled water, there was an increase in the number of cases in which spirochaetes could be found in the cerebro-spinal fluid from 4% to 12.5%, showing their passage from the parenchyma of the brain into the spinal fluid.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Oxidase-reducase in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in Some Forms of Mental Disease, and the Possibility of its Investigation by the Potassium Permanganate Reaction of Benedek and Thurzo* [Sulla ossido-riducasi nel liquido cefalo-rachidiano in alcune forme di malattie mentali e sulla possibilita di poterla esplorare con la reazione al permanganato di potassio (reazione di Benedek e Thurzo)]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xliii, p. 476, Jan.-Feb., 1934.) de Marco, A.

The reaction of Benedek and Thurzo consists in adding to .25 c.c. cerebro-spinal fluid in a sterile and dry test-tube, 1 c.c. of 1% oxalic acid and one drop of 1% potassium permanganate. The mixture, using distilled water instead of spinal fluid, is rose-violet in colour; the colour changes to yellow-rose, to yellow, and then to a pale yellow. The control takes 30 minutes for this change to be completed; with normal spinal fluid the time taken is 14 minutes, and with pathological fluids round 8 minutes. The greater the amount of albumen present in the fluid, the more rapid and intense the changes.

The author found that in schizophrenia, epileptic psychoses, alcoholic conditions, syphilitic conditions, circular psychoses, confusional psychoses and generally in all conditions where the amount of albumen is very minute the reaction was negative. The reaction was pronounced in cerebral syphilis, meningitis, cerebral tumours, spinal cord tumours, general paralysis and in any other conditions where the fluid albumen is much increased.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Phagocytic Behaviour of Interstitial Cells of Brain Parenchyma of Adult Rabbit towards Colloidal Solutions and Bacteria.* (*Arch. of Path.*, vol. xviii, p. 50, July, 1934.) Lebowich, R. J.

The author found that coloured colloidal particles, blood-pigments and bacteria were stored by transitional microglia cells, but not by normal resting and dividing microglia cells. No phagocytosed dye particles, etc., were observed in silver-reduced neuroglia and oligodendroglia cells. There is a distinct relationship between the phagocytic capacity of the microglia cells and their maturity. The