

*Sympathectomy in Man.* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxviii, p. 757, Oct., 1937.) Richter, C. P., and Levine, M.

Cervical sympathectomy, i.e., removal of the stellate and first thoracic ganglia, was performed on 10 patients and produced a large increase in the electrical resistance of the skin of the palms of the hands, and a smaller and less consistent increase on the backs of the hands.

Lumbar sympathectomy, i.e., removal of the second, third and fourth lumbar ganglia in two patients produced similar changes in the resistance of the skin on the soles and the backs of the feet.

The writers found that in some patients the changes in the resistance of the skin on the arms, chest, etc., were sufficiently great to make possible a fairly accurate localization of the sympathetic lesion. By placing patients in a cool temperature these differences can be made even more marked.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Permeability of the Nerve Centres. V: The Effects of Certain Pharmacological Substances (Picrotoxin, Aconitine, Quinine) on the Permeability of the Isolated Cerebro-spinal Axes of Bufo viridis.* (*Boll. Soc. Ital. Biol. Sper.*, vol. xii, pp. 228-9, 1937.) de Marco, R.

The technique previously described was used. The permeability of the potassium ion to the isolated cerebro-spinal axes of *Bufo viridans* at rest and during stimulation was studied after the addition to the nutritive liquid of 2-6 drops of (1) picrotoxin, (2) aconitine and (3) quinine. The three substances produced an increase in permeability of a degree corresponding to that observed previously with strychnine, crotoalus venom and morphine, but markedly less than that obtained with *Trachinus* and *Scorpæna* venoms, whether the cerebro-spinal axis was at rest or under electrical stimulation.

PETER MASUCCI (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Relative Hypnotic Effects of some Ureas of Varied Types.* (*Journ. Pharmacol.*, vol. lxi, pp. 175-81, 1937.) Hjort, A. M., De Beer, E. J., Buck, J. S., Ide, W. S., and Fassett, D. W.

The relative hypnotic potencies of 20 widely diversified substituted ureas were compared. Most ureas have a hypnotic action. The introduction of a hydroxyl or carboxyl group decreases or abolishes this property. Halogenation of alkyl and alkylaryl ureas increases the hypnotic potency, so does lengthening the alkyl chain or increasing the size of the aryl group in alkylaryl ureas. Thioureas are effective hypnotics, but the only isothiourea studied, ethylethyl-*p*-anisylisothiourea-HCl, is not a hypnotic but a powerful convulsant and relatively very toxic.

L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

*A Further Study of Barbiturate-picrotoxin Antagonism.* (*Journ. Pharmacol.*, vol. lxi, pp. 153-61, 1937.) Krantz, John C., jun., Carr, C. Jelleff, and Beck, Frances F.

In the white rat, picrotoxin antagonizes the depression of oxygen consumption produced by nembutal, but does not increase oxygen consumption in rats which had not been previously depressed. Picrotoxin does not combat the depressed oxygen uptake of rat or rabbit brain *in vitro*. It does not stimulate respiration through the carotid sinus. Its antidotal action is attributable mainly to its convulsant action.

L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

*Hydrolysis of Salts of Barbituric Acids as Related to the Rate of Onset of Anæsthesia.* (*Journ. Pharmacol.*, vol. lxi, pp. 134-8, 1937.) Bush, M. T.

The apparent ionization constituents of the hypnotics phenobarbital, barbital, amytal, pentobarbital and evipan were determined. The respective *pK* values are