the basic level in from 8–12 hours. A prompt and profuse diuresis began about 2 hours after the injection and continued for 6 hours. The aggravating symptoms such as headache, vomiting, vertigo, twitching and dizziness were relieved.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Physiologic Effects of Benzedrine and its Relationship to other Drugs Affecting the Autonomic Nervous System. (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. cxcii, p.* 560, *Oct.*, 1936.) *Myerson, A., Loman, J., and Dameshek, W.*

The authors carried out investigations on a group of 18 psychotic patients (15 dementia præcox, 2 general paresis and 1 manic-depressive). Benzedrine has a striking and prolonged effect in raising the blood-pressure, together with a less marked effect on the spinal fluid pressure. In some cases the erythrocyte count was raised by 1–3 millions while the leucocyte count was often doubled or even trebled. When used with mecholyl, the blood-pressure lowering effect of the latter drug was at first apparent, followed by an increased blood-pressure when the effects of mecholyl became diminished. When used with atropine the rise in blood-pressure was often extreme.

With amytal, the period of narcosis was shortened and the blood-pressure lowering effect of this drug was diminished. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Central Action of Beta-aminopropylbenzene (*Benzedrine*). (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cviii, p.* 528, *Feb.* 13, 1937.) *Nattanson, M. H.*

Benzedrine produces in most individuals a definite stimulation of the central nervous system in doses which do not result in a peripheral sympathomimetic action. Euphoria, a feeling of exhilaration, lessening of fatigue, an increased energy and capacity for work and talkativeness follow quite regularly the administration of from 10 to 20 mgrm. Although the drug has its most striking effect in narcolepsy, it acts favourably in states of persistent exhaustion and in individuals who become easily fatigued. The reactions observed indicate that patients who are depressed may be benefited. Studies in normal individuals indicate that benzedrine increases energy and efficiency to a degree that the drug should be of value in the preparation of individuals for activities that require an unusual expenditure of physical and mental energy. T. E. BURROWS.

Physiologic Effects of Acetyl-beta-methylcholine (*Mecholyl*) *and its Relationship to other Drugs Affecting the Autonomic Nervous System.* (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. cxciii, p.* 198, *Feb.*, 1937.) *Myerson, A., Loman, J., and Dameshek, W.*

The writers investigated the action of mecholyl in 18 cases of dementia præcox and 2 general paretics, at first alone and subsequently combined with atropine, sodium amytal, benzedrine and adrenaline. 30 mgrm. administered subcutaneously caused flushing of face and chest, perspiration, salivation, rhinorrhœa and lachrymation, a moderate fall in blood-pressure, a rise in pulse-rate and a rise in spinal fluid pressure. All effects except the rise in pulse-rate can be explained on the basis of parasympathetic stimulation. There was no change in the mental reactions or behaviour of the subjects. Atropine quickly overcomes the effect of mecholyl. The combined effect of mecholyl and sodium amytal on the blood-pressure is additive, the resultant fall being very great. Benzedrine, which is a sympathomimetic drug, has its prolonged pressor action temporarily nullified by mecholyl.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Action of Acetylcholine on the Carotid Sinus. (*Arch. Intern. Pharmacodynamie, vol. liv, pp.* 129–35, 1936.) *Heymans, C., et al.*

Acetylcholine perfused through the carotid sinus of the dog causes a reflex increase in respiration, and a slowing of the heart with a fall in blood-pressure. These effects are not obtained if the nerves from the sinus are cut.

M. L. C. BERNHEIM (Chem. Abstr.).