The Central Action of Acetylcholine. (*Journ. Pharmacol., vol. lvi, pp.* 448–50, 1936.) *Silver, Geo. A., and Morton, H. G.*

Acetylcholine in doses of 2 to 4γ injected into the hypothalamic region of cats anæsthetized with urethane caused a small rise in blood-pressure followed by a sharp fall lasting from 1 to 2 minutes. Similar injection into the lateral ventricle gave the same effects less consistently. Intraventricular injections into the unanæsthetized cat caused drowsiness lasting about 1 hour.

T. H. RIDER (Chem. Abstr.).

The Action of Certain Choline Derivatives on the Coronary Flow. (*Journ. Pharm. and Exper. Therap., vol. lvii, p.* 179, *June,* 1936.) *Wedd, A. M.*

The writer investigated the action on the coronary flow of acetyl-choline, acetyl-β-methylcholine ("mecholyl") and carbaminoyl choline ("doryl") in rabbits, cats and dogs. There was a prompt increase in flow followed by a decrease. The vasodilator effect appeared to be due to the muscarine component of the choline derivative and the constrictor action to the nicotine component. On the heart-muscle these compounds caused an immediate decrease in the amplitude of the beat, which was soon followed by an increase.

Mecholyl in human beings causes a feeling of pressure or constriction behind the sternum. In one patient epigastric pain occurred, probably due to myocardial ischæmia. This should be relieved by intravenous atropine. Mecholyl appears to be practically free from any nicotine action. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Action of Yohimbine on the Vegetative Nervous System: II. (*Upsala Läkare-förenings Förh., vol. xli, pp.* 191–230, 1935–6.) *Weger, P.*

Yohimbine has a local anæsthetic action and antagonizes cocaine in its peripheral sympathetic action. Yohimbine causes dilatation of peripheral vessels from paralysis of the sympathetic system, but does not produce gangrene. On the uterus its action is weaker than ergot. Yohimbine paralyses the motor, as well as the inhibitor, functions of the sympathetic nervous system. A bibliography of 135 references completes the article. JAMES C. MUNCH (Chem. Abstr.).

Presence of Strychnine-Barbituric Complex in the Urine of Animals which had Received Separate Injections of Strychnine and a Barbiturate. (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxxi, pp.* 1412–13, 1936.) *Lavergne, V. de, Kissel, P., Weiller and Chahidi, H.*

Strychnine was injected into one leg of a guinea-pig and a barbiturate (soneryl or gardenal) into another leg. The strychnine-barbituric complex previously described by Lavergne and Kissel (cf. *Bull. Acad. Med.*, cxiv, p. 384, 1935) was extracted from the urine collected in the next 24 hours. The toxicity of the complex is relatively low. L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

Psychosin Sulphate: Its Action upon Bacteria, Toxins, Serum and Red Cells. (*Journ. Path. Bact., vol. xlii, pp.* 363–98, 1936.) *Drury, A. N., et. al.*

Psychosin, psychosin ethylsphingosin, and methylsphingosin derived from cerebrosides obtained from fresh brain have definite biological activities. They all kill bacteria, hæmolyse red cells, and when mixed with serum lead to characteristic precipitations. Psychosin alone can "fix" toxins, and its action is much more potent on tetanus than on diphtheria toxin. Deaminized psychosin possesses none of these activities. There is no evidence that any of these substances exist in the body as such, but psychosin and sphingosin are constituents of substances found throughout the body. Surface adsorption may be related to the serum precipitation and the bactericidal action. JOHN T. MYERS (Chem. Abstr.).