

*The Particularly High Vitamin-C Content of the Cerebro-spinal Fluid of Newborn Normal and Premature Infants.* (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol.*, vol. cxxi, pp. 987-8, 1936.) Rohmer, P., Bezssonoff, N., and Stoerr, E.

The spinal fluid of 5 normal full-term infants 4-16 days old contained 13-16 mgrm. ascorbic acid per litre, and that of 6 premature infants 2-30 days old contained 18-36, average 27, mgrm. per litre. The spinal fluid of normal infants 3 weeks to 5 months old contained 5-8 mgrm. per litre (same as adults).

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

*On the Existence of an Intrinsic Deficiency in Pellagra (Prelim. Report).* (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, vol. cxcii, p. 1, July, 1936.) Sydenstricker, V. P., et al.

The authors investigated six cases of pellagra, administered gastric juice and found unusually rapid recovery. They suggest that in pellagra there is an intrinsic deficiency of variable degree. Some individuals retain enough intrinsic factor to recover even on diets grossly deficient in vitamin B<sub>2</sub>; others are able rapidly to regenerate the intrinsic factor and so recover on high-vitamin feeding. Others are totally lacking in intrinsic factor and unable to regenerate it even under optimum dietetic therapy. These may recover under substitution therapy with intrinsic factor or may die of nervous or cardiac damage inflicted before therapy was started. It is suggested that the intrinsic factor is exhausted or cannot be regenerated during prolonged deprivation of extrinsic factor.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Relationship between Alcoholic Intoxication and Anoxæmia.* (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.*, vol. cxcii, p. 186, Aug., 1936.) McFarland, R. A., and Barach, A. L.

The writers tested 23 subjects under various degrees of alcoholic intoxication. They found that the amount of alcohol in the venous blood showed a tendency to decrease while breathing 50% oxygen and excess carbon dioxide as compared to air. In a number of cases the decrease was more than 50%. An increase of lactic acid in venous blood was absorbed following the ingestion of alcohol in air. This increase was not so great when the subject breathed 50% oxygen and excess carbon dioxide. After the ingestion of the alcohol in air the pulse and blood-pressure on the average showed a transient rise, followed by a return to normal. Following the larger doses there was a fall in the blood-pressure and the pulse became smaller in volume. Following the alcohol drinks in 50% oxygen the variations in pulse and blood-pressure were not so great. The changes in rate of respiration were not significant.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Heat Regulation in Dementia Præcox.* (*Journ. Neur. and Psychopath.*, vol. xvi, p. 321, April, 1936.) Finkelman, I., and Stephens, W. M.

The authors investigated a group of 50 hebephrenics. They found that these patients reacted to cold with a lower heat production than the normals. The drop in temperature was greater than in the normals. Schizophrenics do not have any respiratory shock on immersion in cold water as a rule, and there is an absence of or only very slight shivering response. The writers consider that there is a physiological disturbance in the hypothalamus in schizophrenia.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

## 5. Pharmacology and Treatment.

*Essential Pharmacology of the Autonomic Nervous System.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cvi, p. 357, Feb. 1, 1936.) Jackson, D. E.

Drugs that exert their action on the autonomic nervous system may do so in one of four situations—the nuclei of origin within the central nervous system,