

cerebral syphilis, and suggests a means of differential diagnosis. He also found the values for both inorganic and total phosphorus greater in hebephrenic than in catatonic dementia præcox. The values in melancholia were within the normal range.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Neurolysis in the Human Cerebro-spinal Fluid [Il processo neurolitico nel liquido cerebrospinale umano].* (Rass. di studi psichiat., vol. xxii, p. 214, March-April, 1933.) Mecco, O.

The author examined the cerebro-spinal fluids of 246 patients, and found that 78% gave a positive result when tested against neural tissue, as Speransky has shown. This neurolytic power was unaffected by inactivation, by filtration, boiling or centrifugalizing, and was more marked in diseases affecting the grey matter than in those affecting the white. This power is probably due to some unknown products of cellular activity. The neurolytic power of the fluid is increased by the presence of the products of neural disintegration.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Citric Acid Reaction in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid [La reazione con l'acido citrico sciroposo nel liquor.]* (Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., vol. xl, p. 675, Nov.-Dec., 1932.) Leanza, A.

The author investigated the "syrupy" citric acid test, which is supposed to indicate the presence of mucin in the cerebro-spinal fluid, in 10 normal subjects and 215 subjects with various nervous or mental disorders. He found the reaction positive in 40 out of 215 (i.e., 18%), of which 21 were syphilitic affections of the nervous system. The reaction was negative in all non-syphilitic psychoses, and was of no value in differentiating between cerebral syphilis and general paralysis. There was no relation between a positive reaction and an increase in the number of cells.

The author considers that the positive reaction is due neither to mucin nor to globulin, but to some form of serum protein.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*A New Globulin Precipitation Reaction in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid for the Diagnosis of General Paralysis [Su una nuova reazione di precipitazione delle globuline nel liquor per la diagnosi di paralisi progressiva].* (Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., vol. xl, p. 537, Nov.-Dec., 1932.) Cabitto, L.

The author describes a new reaction which he has introduced. The reaction is more sensitive than the reactions of Nonne-Appelt or Weichbrodt, and is specific for general paralysis and tabes in 100% of cases and negative in other conditions.

The reagent is made by dissolving .5 gr. of phosphomolybdic acid in 100 c.c. of distilled water. It will keep indefinitely. To 1 c.c. of cerebro-spinal fluid is added .2 c.c. of reagent. At the point of contact of the two liquids a ring forms. The test-tube is shaken, and the reaction is positive if the turbidity spreads throughout the liquid. If the reaction is negative, the liquid remains clear. The reaction was negative in some cases of nervous and mental disease, where the reactions of Pandy, Weichbrodt, Taccone, Boltz, Nonne-Appelt and Takata-Ara were all "one plus".

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*A New Reaction to Estimate Changes in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid [Una nuova reazione di orientamento per svelare le alterazioni del liquor].* (Rasseg. di Studi Psich., vol. xxii, p. 65, Jan.-Feb., 1933.) Amodeo, P.

The author describes a new reaction in the cerebro-spinal fluid, which consists of adding 1-2 drops of nitrous-nitric acid to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 c.c. of fluid. The resulting mixture is heated almost to boiling-point. The reaction is positive if the liquid becomes opalescent and deposits albumen as flakes at the bottom of the tube, and negative if the fluid remains clear. The results closely parallel those of the Boltz, Pandy and similar reactions.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.