

their effect. While the quinquevalent arsenicals require a higher dose, they have the marked advantage of less toxicity. Acetarsonone appears therapeutically superior. G. H. W. LUCAS (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Treatment of Some Multiple Scleroses by Electropyraxia.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 423, April, 1934.) Zeymann, C. A., and Osborne, S. L.

The writers treated 25 cases of multiple sclerosis by means of hyperpyrexia produced by diathermy, radiotherapy and the electric blanket; 44% were much improved and 40% showed improvement to a lesser degree. One patient died as the result of the treatment. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Lecithin Treatment of Some Multiple Sclerosis Syndromes.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 264, March, 1934.) Weinberg, M. H.

The writer treated 12 cases of multiple sclerosis with intraspinal injections of lecithin according to the method of Minnea and Dragomir. Ten cases were carefully studied, and of these nine showed greater or lesser improvement. Lecithin is supposed to neutralize the lipolytic substance present in the spinal fluid. The author also gave quinine hydrochloride at the same time. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Absence of Deteriorating Effects of Bromides in Epilepsy.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. ciii, p. 100, July 14, 1934.) Paskind, H. A.

From a study of 54 epileptic patients who had taken bromides in sufficient amounts to affect the seizures for from 1-17 years, the writer found that only 5.5% became deteriorated. The occurrence of deterioration was less in this group than in a larger less adequately treated group.

The misleading statements in the literature regarding the adverse effects of bromide in epilepsy are due to (1) failure to distinguish between intoxication and deterioration; (2) the use of bromides in persons with epilepsy who were destined to deteriorate without their use; (3) the chance occurrence of behaviour disturbances in insane or neurotic epileptic patients, who had been given bromides, but in whom such behaviour disorders occur without bromides. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Effect of Experimental Dehydration on the Action of Certain Convulsant Drugs.* (*Arch. Intern. Pharm.*, vol. xlvii, pp. 284-96, 1934.) Maloney, A. H.

Rabbits rapidly dehydrated with intravenous injections of hypertonic glucose or sucrose, and rats slowly dehydrated during the acidosis induced by a carbohydrate-free diet, are more resistant to the convulsant action of picrotoxin and strychnine. The rats are also resistant to coramine. Potassium bicarbonate and ammonium chloride added to cheese accelerate the building-up of the rats' resistance to convulsant drugs. H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Treatment of Constitutional and Involutional Melancholia with Hæmatoporphyrin (Photodyn)* [*Il Trattamento delle Malinconie Endogene ed Involutive con la Ematoporfirina (Photodyn)*]. (*Arch. Gen. di Neur. Psych. e Psicoanalisi*, vol. xv, p. 105, April, 1934.) Bianchini, M. L.

Photodyn consists of a 5% solution of hematoporphyrin. The author gave 10 injections of 1 c.c. on 10 successive days, then a respite for 3-6 days, and then 10 daily injections of 2 c.c. After this, 30-45 drops a day in three doses by mouth for another 8-15 days. He treated 19 cases, and found that 6 recovered, 4 were improved, 8 remained unaltered and 1 died from exhaustion. The percentage of cure in the constitutional type of case was 32 and in the involutional type 20. Photodyn does not appear to be toxic and is without secondary effects. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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