appearance. The release phenomena observed may be explained by the inhibition of higher inhibitory centres. In the over-inhibited catatonic states, sodium amytal exerts specific psychological effects. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Detoxification of Amidopyrin by Sodium Amytal. (*Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med., vol. xxxii, pp.* 1242–3, 1935.) *Rose, C. M.*

Amidopyrin and sodium amytal have the same toxicity; the minimum lethal dose of each was 150 mgrm. per kgrm. in the mouse and 135 in the rat. The antidotal action of sodium amytal against convulsive drugs is well known: amidopyrin causes convulsions of central origin; the toxicity of amidopyrin was reduced approximately two-thirds when an optimal dose of sodium amytal (40% of the minimum lethal dose for the mouse and 50% for the rat) was given.
C. V. BAILEY (Chem. Abstr.).

Medicaments Acting on the Nervous System and the Vegetative Life and Gas Metabolism. (*Arch. Ital. Biol., vol. xcii, pp.* 46–63, 1934.) *Orestano, G.*

The vegetative nervous system exercises a direct action on the oxygen consumption of the tissues innervated by it. Sympathetico- and para-sympathetico-mimetic drugs influence the gas exchange by influencing primarily the nervous systems indicated. A. E. MEYER (Chem. Abstr.).

The Penetration of Bismuth into the Central Nervous System. (*Derm. Wochens., vol. c, pp.* 367–70, 1935.) *Huang, Chin Tsing.*

The penetration of bismuth into the central nervous system depends on the charge of the bismuth-containing ion. Anions penetrate better than cations.
M. L. (Chem. Abstr.).

The Theory of Narcosis: III. (*Biochem. Zeitschr., vol. cclxxvii, pp.* 39–71, 1935, *cf. C.A., vol. xvii, p.* 2917.) *Meyer, K. H., and Hemmi, H.*

A critical examination of the adsorption theory of narcosis. It is shown from theoretical considerations that departures from Henry's law of solution equivalent, or the discovery of a so-called adsorption isotherm do not prove adsorption and, therefore, the evidence adduced in favour of this is not conclusive. A comparison of the narcotic action of a series of substances fails to reveal any relationship to their adsorption in interfaces or on surfaces, nor has any relationship been found to their solubility in proteins. A critical review is also offered of the "lipoid model". A study of the distribution quotient oleic alcohol/water leads to the conclusion that narcosis sets in whenever any chemically indifferent substance reaches a definite molar concentration in the cell lipoids (in tadpoles 0·03 mol./1). The experiments were carried out with an homologous series of alcohols up to the tetradecyl alcohol, also with various mixtures of narcotics and at various temperatures.
S. MORGULIS (Chem. Abstr.).

Treatment with Atropine in Large Doses for the Sequelæ of Chronic Epidemic Encephalitis [*Atropinbehandlung mit hohen Dosen bei Folgezuständen nach Encephalitis Epidemica Chronica*]. (*Acta Psychiat. et Neur., vol. x, p.* 203, 1935.) *Askgaard, V.*

After reviewing some of the literature on this subject, the results of treatment in twelve cases of encephalitic parkinsonianism are given. The writer started with ½ mgrm. and increased the drug up to 30–40 mgrm. per day, given in two doses. The average daily dose, however, was between 6 and 20 mgrm. Most cases improved considerably; four patients did not improve; one did not stand the drug well. The rigidity responded best to this treatment; respiratory and oculogyric crises became rare in one case. The psychotic symptoms showed no change, but the bradyphrenia and depression which was present in some cases improved.
S. L. LAST.