

treated with nicotinic acid showed definite improvement at the end of the period, although 9 improved for about four weeks and 3 regressed. The authors feel that it is likely that a small daily dose of nicotinic acid may prove more effective.

T. E. BURROWS.

*The Use of Nicotinic Acid in the Treatment of Pellagra.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cx, p. 622, Feb. 26, 1938.) Spies, T. D., Cooper, C., and Blankenhorn, M. A.

The lesions of the mucous membrane in eleven cases of pellagra were cured promptly by means of nicotinic acid. Severe cases of pellagrous dermatitis did not appear to be specifically benefited by this treatment. The manifestations of peripheral neuritis became worse in one case when small amounts of the basic diet and supplements of nicotinic acid were taken. The patients in this study who had mental symptoms were too severely diseased to warrant their remaining on an unbalanced diet for a sufficient period to enable the authors to determine the effect of nicotinic acid with any degree of finality. The pellagrins in this study excreted large amounts of porphyrin, which rapidly disappeared from the urine following the administration of nicotinic acid. It appears that 0.5 grm. daily given in five doses of 100 mgrm. each is safe and effective in the usual case. It was also found that from 50 to 80 mgrm. a day in physiologic solution of sodium chloride was effective intravenously.

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*The Effect of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> on the Peripheral Neuritis of Pellagra.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cx, p. 1081, Apr. 2, 1938.) Spies, T. D., and Airing, C. D.

Irrespective of whether the pellagra followed alcoholism, prompt relief from neuritic pain was obtained in all cases by the intravenous injection of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>. The authors conclude that certain patients fail to absorb vitamin B<sub>1</sub> effectively by mouth, and that it is imperative that they be given parenteral injections. Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> does not cure the glossitis or stomatitis, but their observations suggest that nicotinic acid does cure these symptoms, but has no effect on the neuritis.

T. E. BURROWS.

*Effects of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> Therapy on the Polyneuritis of Alcohol Addicts.* (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. cx, p. 414, Feb. 5, 1938.) Goodhart, R., and Jolliffe, N.

The authors report on 17 cases of alcoholic addiction with mild uncomplicated polyneuritis. They conclude that vitamin B deficiency is the primary cause of the polyneuritis of the alcohol addict, and that improvement in the objective signs of polyneuritis varies directly with the vitamin B intake up to a point of optimum dosage, which, though not as yet determined, is definitely more than four times the predicted maintenance requirement.

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