Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.*

1. Anatomy and Physiology of Nervous System.

The Effect of Adrenaline on Vasomotor Reflexes. (*Quart. Journ. Exptl. Physiol., vol. xxvii, pp.* 307–17, 1938.) *Chu, Liang-Wei, and Hsu, Fong-Yen.*

In anæsthetized vagotomized dogs, continuous infusion of adrenaline solution depresses vasomotor activity. This depression, localized in the constrictor centre, is largely due to afferent impulses from the carotid sinus, with the chemical receptors playing a major role. A diffuse vasostatic reflex is also accentuated by the presence of adrenaline in the perfusion blood. R. Brown (Chem. Abstr.).

Alleged Convulsant Properties of Brain Extracts. (*Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med., vol. xxxvii, pp.* 543–7, 1937.) *Keith H. M., and McEachern, D.*

Saline extract of the brain residue remaining after acetone extraction and also the acetone fraction were prepared from the normal cat, and from the cat undergoing convulsions due to thujone or electric stimulation. Such extracts when injected into normal cats or rabbits caused marked constitutional symptoms due to cardiac depression, but were without specific convulsant effect on the central nervous system. The claims of Kroll were not substantiated (*cf. C.A.*, xxx, p. 1112).
C. V. Bailey (Chem. Abstr.).

The Weights of the Brain and of its Parts, of the Spinal Cord and the Eyeballs in the Adult Cat. (*Journ. Comp. Neurol., vol. lxviii, pp.* 395–404, 1938.) *Latimer, H. B.*

The brain as well as the spinal cord is absolutely heavier in the male cat, but it forms a larger percentage of the body-weight in the female. The weight of the brain is correlated with that of the spinal cord. The weights of the two eyeballs form significant correlations with body-length in both sexes and with body-weight in the males. Rachel Brown (Chem. Abstr.).

Relation of the Cerebral Cortex to the Grasp Reflex and to Postural and Righting Reflexes. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxix, p.* 433, *Mar.*, 1938.) *Bieber, I., and Fulton, J. F.*

The neck and labyrinthine reflexes and the righting reflexes of Magnus and de Kleyn are normally suppressed by the cerebral cortex. Bilateral ablation of the premotor field (area 6*a*) and of the motor area (area 4) of an adult monkey or baboon releases the righting reflexes and occasionally the neck and labyrinthine reactions. At the same time the animal exhibits a stereotyped postural pattern identical with that described by Magnus for the thalamic monkey. When the animal is turned over, the postural pattern is reversed. The grasp reflex varies with the position of the body in space, directly with the righting reflexes, and is also to some extent influenced by the neck and labyrinthine reflexes when these are present. Stretching

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