Relation Between Chemical Constitution and Pharmacological Actions of Convulsant Drugs. (*Sei-i-kai Med. Journ., vol. liv, No. 12, pp. 2321–503 [German abstr. 7–10], 1935.*) *Takeuchi, Shogoro.*

With frogs (*Rana nigromaculata*) and spinal frogs, 2-hydromorphine was less convulsant than morphine; 2-hydronitrosomorphine, weaker than nitrosomorphine. On the other hand, 2-hydromorphine, nitromorphine, aminomorphine, codeine, nitrosocodeine, aminocodeine, thebaine and 2-hydrothebaine had the power to produce clonic spasm in mice, showing that an introduction of H_2, NO, NH_2 or CH_3 to the morphine molecule gives a new property which morphine itself does not possess. S. TASHIRO (Chem. Abstr.).

Action of Pyrethrins on Nerve-muscle Excitability and on the Centres Controlling Peripheral Chronaxia. (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxxi, pp. 764–6, 1936.*) *Gaudin, O.*

Emulsions of pyrethrins I and II (containing 0·1–0·01%) caused an increase in the chronaxia of the sciatic nerve and gastrocnemius muscle *in situ* in the decerebrated frog, but decreased the chronaxia of the isolated nerve-muscle system. L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

Effects of Different Narcotics on the Spontaneous and Reflex Electrical Activities of the Cerebral Cortex. (*Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxxi, pp. 861–6, 1936.*) *Bremer, F.*

Cats were used. The cortical oscillograms obtained during anæsthesia with ether or chloroform were quite different from those obtained during hypnosis induced by barbiturates. L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

Pharmacology of the Human Vaso-motor Centres: Quantitative Measurements of Sensitivity. (*Z. klin. Med., vol. cxxix, pp. 468–90, 1936.*) *Raab, W., and Friedmann, R.*

The effect on blood-pressure was measured by determination of changes in systolic pressure, the effect upon response of the vasomotor centres by the response to breathing standardized concentrations of carbon dioxide. Pituisan, tonephin, präphyson, strychnine, cardiazole and analepticum 3067 were without tonic action upon the resting blood-pressure values; octin produced a slight increase; large doses of sympatol produced the most marked increase. Morphine, phenobarbital and padutin were almost without effect; doryl exerted a markedly depressant action. The *central response* of cases with normal tone was not appreciably increased by pituisan, tonephin, präphyson, cardiazole and analepticum 3067, and was somewhat increased by strychnine and octin. In hypertonic cases it was not affected by doryl, and was distinctly decreased by morphine and phenobarbital, also by padutin, which it seems acted indirectly by increasing the blood-supply of the brain. These drugs are classified: Strychnine as a central stimulant, sympatol as a peripheral vasoconstrictor, morphine, phenobarbital and padutin as central depressants, doryl exclusively as a peripheral vasodilator. An elaborate bibliography is appended. J. S. HEBPURN (Chem. Abstr.).

The Excretion of Barbital in Normal and Nephropathic Subjects. (*Journ. Pharm. and Exper. Therap., vol. lvii, p. 113, June, 1936.*) *Argy, W. P., Linegar, C. R., and Dille, J. M.*

The 24-hour excretion of barbital in normal subjects averaged 14·3%, whereas the excretion in patients with different renal diseases averaged 5·8%. This suggests that there is a lag in excretion of barbital in nephropathic individuals, which is likely to lead to accumulation, and that a diminished excretion of the drug indicates renal disease. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.