The Narcotic and Toxic Action of Ethylbutylethylbarbituric Acid. (*Bull. Acad. Vet. France, vol. viii, pp.* 105–18, 1935; *Ber. Ges. Physiol., Exptl. Pharmakol., vol. lxxxvii, p.* 211.) *Panisset, L., and Grasset, E.*

Intravenous injections of 30 to 40 mgrm. of ethyl-2-butylethylbarbituric acid to dogs produced narcosis, without preceding excitation, which persisted for 40–90 minutes. The duration of narcosis was not proportional to the dose injected. There was a decrease in body temperature and respiratory rate, while the pulse was only slightly decreased. After intraperitoneal injections of 50 mgrm. per kg., deep narcosis developed within 10 minutes.

JAMES C. MUNCH (Chem. Abstr.).

Sodium Butylethylbarbiturate in the Treatment of Delirium Tremens. (*Soc. Medico-psychologique, March* 23, 1936; *Anesthésie et Analgesie, vol. iii, p.* 299.) *Bargues and Grimal.*

Good results were obtained in acute delirium tremens by an intravenous dose of 0·80–1·0 grm. sodium ethylbutylbarbiturate (soneryl), which immediately produced sleep lasting 24 hours. No toxic effects were obtained with doses of 0·015 grm./kg., and no beneficial effects were obtained with smaller doses. The toxic dose as determined experimentally was 0·09 grm./kg.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).

Comparison of the Effects of Various Analeptic Drugs on Carbon Monoxide and Barbiturate Poisonings. (*Zeitschr. Ges. Exptl. Med., vol. c, pp.* 1–19, 1937.) *Thiel, K.*

The effects on the circulation and respiration of animals poisoned by carbon monoxide and pernocton of the drugs sympathol, lobeline-sympathol, cardiazole, coramine, analepticin 3067 and cardiazole-ephedrine and of a mixture of carbon dioxide and oxygen are reported. Recovery from pernocton is best with mixtures of sympathol and cardiazole; from carbon monoxide the gas mixture is better.

MILTON LEVY (Chem. Abstr.).

Acute Intoxication by Barbital with Contracture and Symptoms of Pyramidal Irritation. (*Arch. Soc. Sci. Med. Biol. Montpellier et Languedoc, vol. xviii, pp.* 329–35, 1937.) *Euzière, J., Lafon, R., Aussilloux, Seintein and Nicolas.*

Acute barbiturism generally gives rise to depression symptoms considered the antithesis of the excitation symptoms of strychnine poisoning. However, a case is here presented in which ingestion of barbital produced contracture and symptoms of pyramidal irritation similar to those seen after strychnine poisoning. The urine contained barbital, but no traces of strychnine.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).

Experiments with Quinine and Prostigmin in Treatment of Myotonia and Myasthenia. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxvii, p.* 68, *Jan.*, 1937.) *Kennedy, F., and Wolf, A.*

Quinine is as effective in myotonia as Prostigmin is in myasthenia. Prostigmin is effective in myasthenia through its catalytic influence on acetylcholine, while quinine is effective in myotonia through its inhibition of acetylcholine, both acting at the myoneural junction.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Effect on the Electro-encephalogram of Drugs and Conditions which Influence Seizures. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxvi, p.* 1236, *Dec.*, 1936.) *Lennox, W. G., Gibbs, F. H., and Gibbs, E. L.*

Attention and the inhalation of carbon dioxide, both of which decrease the fluctuations in voltage of potentials from the normal cortex, tend to prevent the appearance of *petit mal* waves. Phenobarbital and sodium bromide prevent or alter the pathological activity associated with a seizure.

Sleep at times causes and at other times prevents pathological activity. The effect depends on the depth of sleep and on individual differences in patients.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Effect of Benzedrine Sulphate on Mood and Fatigue in Normal and in Neurotic Persons. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxvi, p.* 816, *Oct.*, 1936.) *Myerson, A.*

The writer found that normal non-psychotic and non-neurotic persons who suffered from the fatigue and slight malaise due to insufficient rest, especially to insufficient sleep, receive immediate benefit and relief of a pleasant type when from 5–10 mgrm. of benzedrine sulphate is taken on arising. When the dose is taken towards the end of the day sleep is impaired. In some cases of neuroses associated with depression, fatigue and anhedonia and in certain cases of the minor stages of the psychoses, of the same general type, benzedrine acts as an ameliorative influence. It is not curative, but helps to dissipate the morning apathy and depression. Eighteen patients with dementia præcox treated over a considerable period showed no improvement. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Antistrychnine Action of Acetylcholine, Prostigmine and Related Substances and of Central Vagus Stimulation. (*Journ. Physiol., vol. xc, pp.* 310–29, 1937.). *Schweitzer, A., and Wright, Samson.*

Intravenous injection of acetylcholine, doryl, prostigmine and Stedman's meta-compound into cats diminishes, abolishes or delays the onset of strychnine convulsions. Eserine does not influence the convulsions. The anticonvulsant action of acetylcholine is potentiated by all the anticholinesterases, including eserine. Central vagus stimulation may temporarily depress or abolish strychnine convulsions by an irradiation from the medulla to the anterior horn-cells of the spinal cord. E. D. WALTER (Chem. Abstr.).

The Action of Ajmaline on Nerve Impulses. (*Indian Journ. Med. Research, vol. xxiv, pp.* 1125–30, 1937.) *Chopra, R. N., Das, N. N., and Mukherjee, S. N.*

The frequency of transmission of nerve impulses in a nerve-muscle preparation (frog) is diminished by ajmaline in concentrations of 1 in 50,000 to 1 in 100,000. At higher concentrations (1 in 100) transmission is practically stopped.

M. H. POWER (Chem. Abstr.).

Comparative Investigation on the Analeptic Activity of Neospiran and Cardiazole. (*Med. Klin., vol. xxxiii, p.* 941, 1937.) *Singer, R.*

Experiments with cardiazole and neospiran on patients with depressed respiration and vascular collapse showed that neospiran was more rapid in its effect as a respiratory and circulatory stimulant than cardiazole, but its action was of shorter duration. It compared favourably with other analeptics.

G. H. W. LUCAS (Chem. Abstr.).

The Status of Acetarsone in the Treatment of Syphilis. (*Urol. Cut. Rev., vol. xli, pp.* 711–13, 1937.) *Zakon, Samuel J.*

-N-acetyl-4-hydroxy-*m*-arsanilic acid (acetarsone), administered orally, has proved valuable as an antisyphilitic in cases of idiosyncrasy to neoarsphenamine, aortitis and advanced cardiovascular syphilis, mechanical difficulty in giving intravenous therapy, early syphilis in the aged and Wassermann-fast syphilis. It is also valuable as a tonic in those with latent syphilis who are underweight or anæmic, and for pre- and post-hyperpyrexia treatments of neurosyphilis, especially where tryparsamide cannot be used because of eye complications.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).