

#### 4. Treatment.

*The Combined Action of Some Convulsant Agents in Small Doses and the Action of Bromides in Experimentally Induced Convulsions.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, June, 1931.) Pike, F. H., Osnato, M., and Notkin, J.

The authors experimented with lactic acid, which is increased in the blood for periods up to three weeks after a convulsion. They found that lactic acid was too severe a convulsant to use in cats, as death usually followed. In a second group of experiments lactic acid was injected in minimal sublethal doses and followed by subconvulsant doses of absinthe. In each case typical tonic and clonic convulsions ensued without death. Lactic acid obviously enhanced the convulsant effect of absinthe, probably by increasing the permeability of the blood-vessels and perhaps of the cells themselves to water-soluble substances.

Cats fed for long periods with a sodium bromide preparation showed a decreased convulsant reaction to absinthe, but on the other hand ordinarily sublethal doses of absinthe became lethal. The administration of bromide must be prolonged.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Malarial Therapy in Schizophrenia.* (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, March-April, 1931.) Belloni, G. B.

The author treated nineteen cases of dementia præcox with malaria. He obtained a favourable result in six cases, two of which it was possible to consider as cured. Of the six, five were of the hebephrenic and one of the catatonic type.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Action of Bulbocapnine in Man.* (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, November-December, 1930.) di Giacomo, U.

The author found that bulbocapnine given intravenously to patients had much the same action as that described by various authors as occurring in animals. At first there was a period of drowsiness, followed by a phase of psychomotor lethargy, during which in some subjects there appeared cataleptic phenomena unaccompanied by demonstrable muscular rigidity. In two individuals out of sixteen experimented on, a short confusional state with intense psychomotor excitement developed. The syndrome induced by bulbocapnine in man resembles catatonia more than it does Parkinsonianism.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

#### 5. Pathology.

*Non-Electrolytes: Their Distribution between the Blood and the Cerebro-Spinal Fluid.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, June, 1931.) Cockrill, J. R.

The author concludes that dextrose, urea, creatinine and uric acid are unequally distributed between the water of the spinal