

*On the Mechanism of Migraine Headache and the Action of Ergotamine Tartrate.* (Trans. Amer. Neur. Assoc., vol. lxiii, pp. 164-5, 1937.) Graham, J. R., and Wolff, H. G.

In 14 patients with migraine, intravenous injection of 0.3-0.5 mgrm. ergotamine tartrate decreased the amplitude of the temporal artery pulsations by an average of 50%, and simultaneously decreased the headache. Ergotamine tartrate had no effect on the pulsation of the internal carotid and its branches. When headache was relieved by ergotamine tartrate, it could be brought back by intravenous injection of 0.1 mgrm. histamine phosphate, which increased the temporal pulsations. In eleven subjects without headache, ergotamine tartrate given 15 minutes previously did not prevent the incidence of severe headache after histamine phosphate, when the amplitude of intra- and extra-cranial pulsations increased 250%. These experiments show that the action of ergotamine tartrate is not analgesic. The subcutaneous administration of 0.012 c.c. of 1:1000 adrenalin/kgm. during migraine headaches caused brief 30% decrease in amplitude of temporal pulsations accompanied by brief relief of headache.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).

*Histamine Phosphate in Manic-Depressive Psychosis (Further Observations and a Case-report).* (Clin. Med. Surg., vol. xlv, pp. 57-60, 1938.) Marshall, W.

Histamine phosphate given intracutaneously and subcutaneously was followed by remission in a case of manic-depressive psychosis of three years' duration in an adolescent girl. No untoward reactions occurred in 36 cases so treated.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).

*Treatment of Alcoholic Psychoses with Thiamine Chloride (Synthetic Crystalline Vitamin B).* (Journ. Conn. State Med. Soc., vol. ii, pp. 228-30, 1938.) Brodsky, M. E.

Thirty-five apparent cures were obtained in 36 cases of chronic alcoholic psychoses treated by removal (if possible) of alcohol, daily intragluteal injections of 500-2,000 units crystallized vitamin B and administration of sedatives. None of the 35 had begun to drink again at the time of writing, and none exhibited a desire for alcohol. Improvement, and a lack of desire to return to alcoholic habits, were also obtained in 14 cases of acute alcoholic psychoses treated with spinal drainage and daily intragluteal injections of 300-5,000 units vitamin B. Illustrative case-histories are given. Experiments are under way to determine whether the human brain contains vitamin B normally and whether that content is destroyed by alcohol.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Treatment of Alcoholic Psychoses with Benzedrine Sulphate.* (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cx, p. 1811, May 28, 1938.) Reifenstein, E. C., and Davidoff, E.

In 28 patients with psychosis due to alcohol, benzedrine sulphate produced a definite and at times a marked acceleration of improvement in 93%. The drug appeared to be of most value in cases of recent onset. In states of alcoholic intoxication without psychosis the depressive after-effects were usually rapidly dissipated by benzedrine. It is pointed out that the use of benzedrine should be confined to institution patients in order to guard against toxic reactions and habit-formation.

T. E. BURROWS.

*A Study of the Temporary Use of Therapeutic Doses of Benzedrine Sulphate in 147 Supposedly Normal Young Men.* (Med. Ann. Dist. Columbia, vol. vi, pp. 356-9, 1937.) Gwynn, H. B.

Doses of 10 mgrm. of benzedrine sulphate twice daily were administered for 3 days to 147 medical students who did not know the nature of the drug taken, observations being controlled by the administration of lactose. Temporary increase in energy was observed in 113, exhilaration and euphoria in 72, increased mental concentration

in 61. Insomnia was produced in 126, headache in 19 and other disturbances in other patients. Only 38 desired to continue using it. It caused an average increase of 15 beats per minute in pulse, and some increase in systolic pressure. A dose of 20 mgrm. daily is too large for the average normal individual.

JAMES C. MUNCH (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Use of Benzedrine Sulphate in Post-Encephalitic Parkinsonianism.* (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cx, p. 1890, June 4, 1938.) Davis, P. E., and Stewart, W. B.

The authors obtained an improvement in 71.6% of 71 cases with severe symptoms. They conclude that a constant dose seems to be adequate, and that either combined with the belladonna group of drugs, or alone, it is a very useful medication.

T. E. BURROWS.

*Benzedrine Sulphate and Atropine in the Treatment of Chronic Encephalitis.* (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cix, p. 344, July 31, 1937.) Finkelman, I., and Shapiro, L. B.

Twelve patients with post-encephalitic parkinsonianism were treated during consecutive periods with benzedrine, atropine, and the two drugs in combination. Although atropine alone caused a diminution of tremor and rigidity, the addition of benzedrine caused improvement in the sleep cycle and reduced the frequency or abolished oculogyric crises. There was also a feeling of increased energy. The best results were obtained during the combined treatment with atropine and benzedrine.

T. E. BURROWS.

*Theelin Therapy in the Psychoses.* (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cix, p. 1786, Nov. 27, 1937.) Ault, C. C., Hoxtor, E. F., and Werner, A. A.

Theelin appears to be specific in involuntional melancholia, the apparent recovery-rate being 92% in the series presented, the average period of hospitalization being three months. 30,000 to 40,000 units of theelin in oil were administered by injection during the first month of treatment, the dosage then being reduced to meet the individual requirements of the patient. Theelin is indicated for any woman during the climacteric having disturbing mental aberrations, whether mild or severe.

T. E. BURROWS.

*Artificial Fever Treatment of Chorea.* (Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cix, p. 111, July, 1937.) Barnacle, C. H., Ewall, J. R., and Ebaugh, F. G.

Forty-five patients with Sydenham's chorea were treated over a period of two years with the Kettering hypertherm. Fever sessions of 2½ hours' duration at rectal temperatures of from 105° to 105.4° F. are advocated. The average number of treatments was 12.6, the average number of hours of fever was 32.9, and the average time under treatment was 22.3 days. The immediate results showed a recovery in the majority of cases, there having been recurrences during this period. The incidence of carditis was 42.2%. Carditis did not interfere with treatment and the majority of patients were benefited. Associated delirious episodes were infrequent.

T. E. BURROWS.

*Bacteriostatic Action of Sulfanilamide upon Meningococcus in Spinal Fluid.* (Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med., vol. xxxviii, pp. 37-40, 1938.) Neter, E.

Sulfanilamide exerts a bacteriostatic effect on the meningococcus present in spinal fluid obtained from patients with meningococcal meningitis; a concentration of 8 mgrm. % completely prevented reproduction during 24-48 hours; a concentration of 0.8 mgrm. % caused only partial inhibition.

C. V. BAILEY (Chem. Abstr.).