

*The Effect of Non-sedative Drugs and other Measures in Migraine, with Especial Reference to Ergotamine Tartrate.* (Amer. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. clxxxviii, p. 253, Aug., 1934.) Brock, S., O'Sullivan, M., and Young, D.

The writers, after emphasizing that stimulation of the proximal end of one vagus nerve induces bilateral cerebral vaso-dilatation—a parasympathetic action—whereas stimulation of the cervical sympathetic causes ipsilateral vaso-constriction of pial vessels, point out that vaso-spasm is probably a secondary effect of, and not a primary factor in, migraine. They found that follutein, histamine and large doses of amniotin were sometimes successful in inducing headache. In the relief of the headache the most striking benefit was obtained by the hypodermic injection of ergotamine tartrate—a drug which is believed to produce vaso-dilatation by paralyzing the sympathetic innervation. Amyl nitrite failed more often than it brought relief. Adrenaline also was often of no benefit. The use of the ovarian follicular hormone which is known to be lacking in women with migraine did not give the expected results. Intravenous calcium was more or less ineffective.

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*The Behaviour of Post-encephalitic Parkinsonian Tremor under the Influence of Various Drugs [Il comportamento del tremore del parkinsonismo postencefalitico sotto l'influenza di sostanze ad azione farmacodinamica].* (Riv. di Neur., vol. vi, p. 365, Aug., 1933.) Ferrio, C.

The author found that atropine, belladonna and scopolamine (all of which paralyse the parasympathetic) had an inconstant effect. Ergotamine, which inhibits the sympathetic, had an inconstant inhibitory effect on the tremor. Pilocarpine and adrenalin both increased the amplitude of the tremor; the frequency of the tremor remained unaffected. The author considers that his results at least do not contradict the thesis of the participation of the vegetative nervous system in the innervation of striated muscle.

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*Typhoid Vaccine in the Treatment of Chorea.* (Amer. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. clxxxvi, p. 390, Sept., 1933.) Capper, A., and Bauer, E. L.

The authors treated 23 cases of chorea, 9 of which were chronic, with typhoid-paratyphoid vaccine; 19 became symptom-free. Of the 9 chronic cases, 1 showed a persistent talkativeness and 1 a persistent blinking of the eyes, but all other symptoms had disappeared. A re-examination of 11 cases three to fifteen months subsequent to discharge showed at least 7 to be entirely well.

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*The Pharmacological Action of Ten Amines Related to Ephedrine and Tryptamine.* (Journ. Amer. Pharm. Assoc., vol. xxii, p. 813, 1933.) Chen, K. K., and Ling Chen, A.

Ten amines, four of which were ephedrine derivatives, and the others containing an indole ring, were tested for pressor action on pithed cats, effect on rabbit pupil, effect on rabbit intestine and on isolated guinea-pig uterus. If the blood-pressure is taken as the criterion, the introduction of a methoxy radical at the p position in the norephedrine molecule results in a reduction of activity. The replacement of two OH groups for H at the 3-4-positions in the benzene ring greatly increases the intensity, but abolishes the prolongation of the action. 3-4-dihydroxynorephedrine has one-fourth and 3-4-dihydroxyephedrine one-fortieth the activity of adrenalin. Repeated intravenous injections of both compounds elicited the same responses as those produced by the first injection. They dilate the pupil and inhibit intestinal movement. Tryptamine is more powerful than methyl- or dimethyl-tryptamine, but decidedly less active than trimethyltryptamine ammonium iodide, which has one twenty-first the activity of adrenalin as far as blood-pressure is concerned. p-Methyl- and p-methoxynorephedrine and all the tryptamines investigated stimulate isolated rabbit intestines and guinea-pig uteri. They have practically no action on rabbit pupils, except that p-methylnorephedrine dilates them slightly. Hypaphorine does not produce effects similar