

The Effects of Some Compounds of Barbituric Acid and of Urethane. (*Journ. Pharmacol.*, vol. 1, p. 328, 1934.) Rakielen, N., Lahum, L. H., Du Bois, D., Gilden, E. F., and Himwich, H. E.

All the drugs studied produced acidosis. The detailed effects on blood oxygen and carbon dioxide are discussed.
T. H. RIDER (Chem. Abstr.).

The Permeability of the Hæmato-encephalic Barrier towards Narcotics [*La permeabilità della barriera nervosa centrale sotto l'azione di sostanze narcotiche*]. (*Riv. di Neur.*, vol. vii, p. 313, June, 1934.) Colucci, G.

The writer experimented on rabbits. He investigated the action of veronal, luminal and morphine on the permeability of the barrier as shown by the trypan blue and Flatau's fuchsin methods. Trypan blue, when injected into the blood, did not pass into the spinal fluid, even when animals were severely poisoned with the three narcotics. The permeability towards fuchsin was slightly decreased after moderate doses of veronal and luminal, but was increased after toxic doses of these two drugs. The permeability towards fuchsin was considerably decreased after moderate doses of morphine, but was not altered by much greater doses.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Narco-sustained Therapy with Diallylbarbituric Acid in Psychiatry. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 286, March, 1934.) Magnus, A. B.

The author reports his results on 38 cases out of 85 treated with prolonged narcosis during a period of four years. This therapy has proved valuable in manic-depressive psychosis, in certain types of schizophrenia, and in psychoneuroses. Involuntional cases also responded. The method consisted of administering dial rectally for a period of ten days. In the pre-narcotic stage dial is given by mouth, and occasionally intramuscularly when indicated. During the narcotic stage morphine-stopolamine is given on the third day of the treatment and occasionally afterwards to lessen the possibility of a tolerance for dial. The depth of the sleep does not appear to matter. In the post-narcotic stage, lasting for three days or more, the patient is conscious, but his memory for recent events remains clouded and retention is poor.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Anti-shock Potency of Luminal. (*Arch. Farmacol. Sper.*, vol. lvii, p. 18, 1934.) Brunelli, B.

Luminal has a slight anti-shock potency (to arsphenamine), which is due to (a) vaso-dilator properties resulting in increased capillary permeability, and to (b) an anti-coagulant action in the blood.

L. W. BUTZ (Chem. Abstr.).

Experimental Chemotherapy and the Destruction of Spirochæta Pallida in the Brain. (*Journ. Chemotherapy*, vol. xi, pp. 2-8, 1934.) Raiziss, Geo. W., and Severac, M.

Trivalent arsenicals, such as arsphenamine and neoarsphenamine, have been tried in neuro-syphilis with small measure of success. Experiments on mice suggest that quinquevalent arsenicals are of some value in treating this disease. The mice were divided into two groups, and were injected with active spirochætes from minced chancrous tissue of a rabbit. One group was treated twenty-four hours after infection to determine the prophylactic value of the drugs. The other group was used three months after infection to determine the minimum therapeutic dose. Three months after treatment the brains of the mice were removed, minced with salt solution and were injected into the testicles of rabbits; if no lesion occurred during a six-month period the amount of drug given to the mice was considered curative. From this preliminary work it was found that in sequence of superiority, arsphenamine, bismarsen, neoarsphenamine, acetarsone and tryparsamide produce

their effect. While the quinquevalent arsenicals require a higher dose, they have the marked advantage of less toxicity. Acetarsonone appears therapeutically superior. G. H. W. LUCAS (Chem. Abstr.).

The Treatment of Some Multiple Scleroses by Electropyraxia. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 423, April, 1934.) Zeymann, C. A., and Osborne, S. L.

The writers treated 25 cases of multiple sclerosis by means of hyperpyrexia produced by diathermy, radiotherapy and the electric blanket; 44% were much improved and 40% showed improvement to a lesser degree. One patient died as the result of the treatment. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Lecithin Treatment of Some Multiple Sclerosis Syndromes. (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 264, March, 1934.) Weinberg, M. H.

The writer treated 12 cases of multiple sclerosis with intraspinal injections of lecithin according to the method of Minnea and Dragomir. Ten cases were carefully studied, and of these nine showed greater or lesser improvement. Lecithin is supposed to neutralize the lipolytic substance present in the spinal fluid. The author also gave quinine hydrochloride at the same time. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Absence of Deteriorating Effects of Bromides in Epilepsy. (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, vol. ciii, p. 100, July 14, 1934.) Paskind, H. A.

From a study of 54 epileptic patients who had taken bromides in sufficient amounts to affect the seizures for from 1-17 years, the writer found that only 5.5% became deteriorated. The occurrence of deterioration was less in this group than in a larger less adequately treated group.

The misleading statements in the literature regarding the adverse effects of bromide in epilepsy are due to (1) failure to distinguish between intoxication and deterioration; (2) the use of bromides in persons with epilepsy who were destined to deteriorate without their use; (3) the chance occurrence of behaviour disturbances in insane or neurotic epileptic patients, who had been given bromides, but in whom such behaviour disorders occur without bromides. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Effect of Experimental Dehydration on the Action of Certain Convulsant Drugs. (*Arch. Intern. Pharm.*, vol. xlvii, pp. 284-96, 1934.) Maloney, A. H.

Rabbits rapidly dehydrated with intravenous injections of hypertonic glucose or sucrose, and rats slowly dehydrated during the acidosis induced by a carbohydrate-free diet, are more resistant to the convulsant action of picrotoxin and strychnine. The rats are also resistant to coramine. Potassium bicarbonate and ammonium chloride added to cheese accelerate the building-up of the rats' resistance to convulsant drugs. H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

The Treatment of Constitutional and Involutional Melancholia with Hæmatoporphyrin (Photodyn) [*Il Trattamento delle Malinconie Endogene ed Involutione con la Ematoporfirina (Photodyn)*]. (*Arch. Gen. di Neur. Psych. e Psicoanalisi*, vol. xv, p. 105, April, 1934.) Bianchini, M. L.

Photodyn consists of a 5% solution of hematoporphyrin. The author gave 10 injections of 1 c.c. on 10 successive days, then a respite for 3-6 days, and then 10 daily injections of 2 c.c. After this, 30-45 drops a day in three doses by mouth for another 8-15 days. He treated 19 cases, and found that 6 recovered, 4 were improved, 8 remained unaltered and 1 died from exhaustion. The percentage of cure in the constitutional type of case was 32 and in the involutional type 20. Photodyn does not appear to be toxic and is without secondary effects. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

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