

which begins with a separation of the intimal vessel layers outside the endothelium.

The endarteritis of the small vessels found in every case probably has two causations: (1) Purely mechanical as the result of œdema of the brain; (2) toxic irritation through the blood-stream.

Acellular areas (Verödungsherde) are frequently found in the brain, and may produce a permanent clinical picture if sufficiently numerous.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Calcium Content of the Brain and its Distribution in Various Regions during Diallylbarbituric Acid Narcosis.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, August, 1932.) Katzenelbogen, S.

The author estimated the calcium content of the whole brain in normal and narcotized cats and found no difference between the two.

He then examined various areas and found that the hypothalamic region from the optic chiasma to the root of the third nerve showed a higher calcium content than any other brain area in both the narcotized and control animals.

This finding suggests that calcium may play a certain rôle in the function of the hypothalamic region.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Blood-Cholesterol Studies in Mental Disease.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, September, 1932.) Schube, P. G.

There are presented the total blood-cholesterol estimations, as measured in 100 c.c. of whole blood, in 54 "normal" individuals, and in 200 individuals "not normal" from a neuro-psychiatric point of view. The mean value of the "normal" group was higher than that of the "not normal" group, but the range of cholesterol estimations in the latter group covered a far greater area than that of the normal group. Of the "not normal" group there were 52% below normal range, 36% within normal range, and 12% above normal range.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Cholesterol Content of Blood in Epilepsy and in Feeble-mindedness.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, August, 1932.) Gray, H., and McGee, L. C.

The authors, using Bloor's method for estimating cholesterol, found an average value for whole blood in normal men of 194 mgrm. per 100 c.c. In epileptics they found an average of 165 mgrm. and in feeble-minded persons of 154 mgrm.

Convulsions were followed in about one hour by a drop in cholesterol, and thereafter there was a gradual rise extending over perhaps a month. Near an attack the ratio of the whole-blood cholesterol to the plasma cholesterol was raised owing probably to there being more cholesterol in the corpuscles and less in the plasma.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Basal Metabolic Rate in Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, July, 1932.) Damon, Le G. A.

From a study of 300 epileptic patients, 50% showed abnormal metabolic rates, usually towards a low figure. More women than men showed low rates;