

In the substantia grisea the cells were in all stages of chromatolysis; neuronophagia was common; many cells were seen in an advanced stage of degeneration and dissolution. In the control brains the percentage of normal cells was 96, in the psychotic brains from 9-33. The amount of cell loss in this area ranged from 38% to 68%, average 52%.

In the nucleus tuberculi lateralis similar changes took place. The percentage of normal cells in the 6 control brains varied from 66-96%, average 82%. In the psychotic cases the number varied from 3-52%. The cell loss was less severe than in the substantia grisea, the average being about 25%. The nucleus tuberculi lateralis which is degenerated in all cases of epilepsy was unaffected in the psychoses examined. There was no relation between the type of psychosis and the damage done. The changes were not necessarily due to arterio-sclerosis, which was absent in four cases.

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*Chemical Changes in the Epileptic Syndrome.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xcii, p. 75, July, 1935.) Hopkins, H.

This paper deals with nocturnal and diurnal rhythm in blood chemistry. The quality of these changes may be correlated with the clinical observation of increased susceptibility to seizures during sleep, especially after midnight. There is evidence for a shift of the blood and urinary titre towards the alkaline side during the early morning hours, as well as rising intracranial pressure and brain volume during sleep. The cholesterol content of the blood falls consistently during sleep, reaching minimal values at 3 a.m. It may be that each of these changes is related to the precipitation of seizures in susceptible persons. The acid-base, water-shifting and ionic blood changes of the author's experiments are of the type to encourage the development of seizures during the latter half of the period of sleep. These rhythmic changes occur in the normal as well as in the epileptic subject, and may be regarded as the normal rhythm for blood chemistry.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Blood Glutathione (GSH) Level in Mental Diseases.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xci, p. 1387, May, 1935.) Brice, A. T.

There appears to be a statistically significant difference in the GSH level between groups of mental patients and adequate individuals. This difference is greatest in catatonic dementia præcox. It is also marked in hebephrenic and paranoid præcox and in general paresis. It is less marked, but still significant in manic-depressive psychosis. In epilepsy it was not significant, but the number of cases was small.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Relationship between Various Emotional Disturbances and the Sugar Content of the Blood.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xcii, p. 115, July, 1935.) Gildea, E. F., Mailhouse, V. L., and Morris, D. P.

Severe emotional disturbances in people free from mental disease are accompanied by a hyperglycæmia. Slight emotional disturbances are rarely associated with a hyperglycæmia. Severe disturbances in patients with mental disorders, even when they appear to be as acute as those in the normal group, are not accompanied by a hyperglycæmia. The blood sugar content in patients with pathological emotional states is sufficiently different from that found in normal persons under acute emotional stress to indicate the presence of some qualitative difference in metabolic processes.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Tone of the Autonomic Nervous System in the Puerperal State* [*El tono del sistema neurovegetativo en el estado puerperal*]. (*La Semana Méd.*, vol. xlii, p. 1553, May 30, 1935.) Pérez, M. L., and Rosenwasser, J.

The authors' investigations lead them to the following conclusions: In pregnancy there is hyperexcitability of the whole of this system, both sympathetic and parasympathetic. In pregnancy the tone is, in general, maintained within normal limits, although with a slight tendency to sympathetic and vagal hypertonia.