

failure of the endothelial cells of the cerebral vessels to store vital dyes, etc., places them outside the class of specific phagocytic endothelial cells. The actively phagocytic adventitial cells of Marchand supplement the protective function exercised by the hæmato-encephalic barrier. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Exploration of the Reticulo-Endothelial System in Schizophrenia [Exploración del sistema reticuloendotelial en la esquizofrenia]. (Arch. de Neurobiol., vol. xiii, p. 1053, 1933.) Fanjul, L., and de la Vega, P.*

The technique adopted was the intravenous injection into a fasting patient of 10 c.c. of an aqueous solution of 1-100 of Congo red. Blood specimens were taken five minutes after the injection and at the expiration of one hour. The concentration of Congo red in these specimens was estimated colorimetrically. A value of 100 was given to the first specimen, and the amount absorbed during the course of the hour was calculated. Normally the index of absorption varies between 50 and 70. In pathological conditions the index is raised to 80 or higher, according to the intensity of the toxic process. The authors believe that in schizophrenia there is an alteration in the working of the reticulo-endothelial system, and that this alteration is in close relation with the clinical picture of the disease.

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*Insulin Convulsions and the Reticulo-endothelial System. (Klin. Woch., vol. xiii, p. 101, 1934.) Dünner, L., Ostertag, B., and Lücke, H.*

Reticulo-endothelial blockade with Indian ink in dogs increases the convulsive dose of insulin six-fold. Similar blockade in rabbits is ineffective.

H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Problem of the Amount of Bromine in Normal Blood and its Variation in Manic-depressives [Il problema del quantitativo di bromo nel sangue normale e delle sue variazioni nella psicosi maniaco-depressiva]. (Riv. di Neurol., vol. vii, p. 339, June, 1934.) Bignoni, A.*

The author does not find the method of Wadim Roman reliable, and used instead that of Bernhardt and Ucko (*Biochem. Zeits.*, H. 1-2, 1925). He found that in manic-depressive insanity there was no decrease in the bromine in the blood, as asserted by Zondek and Bier.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Tryptophane in Some Groups of Mentally Affected Patients: IV. (Biochem. terap. sper., vol. xxi, p. 79, 1934.) Neri, A.*

The tryptophane content in the serum is increased in progressive paralysis. A parallelism was found between tryptophane content and Wassermann reaction.

A. G. MIX (Chem. Abstr.).

*Serological Reactions in Hereditary Syphilis [Reacciones serológicas de la lúes anormalidad infantil]. (Arch. de Neurobiol., vol. xiii, p. 749, 1933.) Juarros, C.*

The Wassermann reaction has been proved to possess the greatest sensitivity in the diagnosis of hereditary syphilis; in 161 cases serologically examined there were 124 positive Wassermans. The benzocol reaction (by the method of Mouriz) holds the second place. The third place is held by the Meinicke turbidity reaction. Judgment on the Meinicke clarification reaction is suspended until a larger number of cases has been examined. At a very short distance follows the reaction of Muttermilch. The Sachs-Georgi reaction is also very sensitive, but there are limits to its usefulness. The reactions of Kahn and Müller have not proved as satisfactory as other workers have found them to be. As a routine measure, for use in all cases, the Wassermann, benzocol and Meinicke reactions should be employed.

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