The Effects of Some Compounds of Barbituric Acid and of Urethane. (*Journ. Pharmacol., vol. l, 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. Involutional 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-scopolamine 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