secondary process appears to be the most likely cause of the clinical symptoms of neuro-somatic deterioration. The localization of this process in the third layer of the cortex and in the pallidum is in agreement with the dementia and progressive rigidity which were the main features of the clinical syndrome.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Micro-reaction of Meinicke in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., July–August*, 1930.) *Amaducci, G.*

Amaducci examined 70 spinal fluids, 34 of which gave positive results and 36 negative ones. This agreed with the Wassermann and colloidal gold reactions. The method is simple and quicker than the Wassermann. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Boltz Reaction in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., January–February*, 1930.) *De Giacomo, U.*

The author examined 70 fluids from various neuro-psychiatric conditions. He found 100% of positive reactions in neuro-syphilitic conditions and 2% in non-syphilitic cases. The reaction is not a sign of increase in albumin in the fluid, nor does it correspond with any increase in lymphocytes or globulin or with changes in the colloidal curve. Giacomo concludes that the reaction is due to an increase in the fluid of some substance belonging to the tryptophane group. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Alkali Reserve and the Acid-base Equilibrium in Epileptics. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., January-February*, 1930.) *Massazza, A.*

The author examined the blood, urine, spinal fluid and alveolar air. He was able to divide his cases into three groups : (1) A group of symptomatic epileptics in whom pH of the blood, alkali reserve, carbon dioxide tension and total calcium were all normal. (2) A more numerous group of essential epileptics showing a low total calcium in the blood, accompanied by signs of alkalosis, increased pH in the blood, normal or slightly increased alkali reserve and decreased carbon dioxide tension. (3) A small group of essential epileptics without alteration in the total calcium but with signs of alkalosis, normal blood pH, decreased alkali reserve and decreased carbon dioxide tension. In the spinal fluid the author frequently found alkalosis. In the urine there was an alkalinity before the fit and an increased acidity afterwards.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Acid-base Equilibrium in Epileptics. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., January–February*, 1930.) *Gozzano, M.*

The author examined 14 epileptics. He found a tendency towards alkalosis, and sometimes a definite alkalosis, shown by a decrease in alveolar carbon dioxide with a normal alkali reserve. He

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