

Sleep at times causes and at other times prevents pathological activity. The effect depends on the depth of sleep and on individual differences in patients.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Effect of Benzedrine Sulphate on Mood and Fatigue in Normal and in Neurotic Persons.* (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxxvi, p. 816, Oct., 1936.) Myerson, A.

The writer found that normal non-psychotic and non-neurotic persons who suffered from the fatigue and slight malaise due to insufficient rest, especially to insufficient sleep, receive immediate benefit and relief of a pleasant type when from 5-10 mgrm. of benzedrine sulphate is taken on arising. When the dose is taken towards the end of the day sleep is impaired. In some cases of neuroses associated with depression, fatigue and anhedonia and in certain cases of the minor stages of the psychoses, of the same general type, benzedrine acts as an ameliorative influence. It is not curative, but helps to dissipate the morning apathy and depression. Eighteen patients with dementia præcox treated over a considerable period showed no improvement.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Antistrychnine Action of Acetylcholine, Prostigmine and Related Substances and of Central Vagus Stimulation.* (*Journ. Physiol.*, vol. xc, pp. 310-29, 1937.) Schweitzer, A., and Wright, Samson.

Intravenous injection of acetylcholine, doryl, prostigmine and Stedman's meta-compound into cats diminishes, abolishes or delays the onset of strychnine convulsions. Eserine does not influence the convulsions. The anticonvulsant action of acetylcholine is potentiated by all the anticholinesterases, including eserine. Central vagus stimulation may temporarily depress or abolish strychnine convulsions by an irradiation from the medulla to the anterior horn-cells of the spinal cord.

E. D. WALTER (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Action of Ajmaline on Nerve Impulses.* (*Indian Journ. Med. Research*, vol. xxiv, pp. 1125-30, 1937.) Chopra, R. N., Das, N. N., and Mukherjee, S. N.

The frequency of transmission of nerve impulses in a nerve-muscle preparation (frog) is diminished by ajmaline in concentrations of 1 in 50,000 to 1 in 100,000. At higher concentrations (1 in 100) transmission is practically stopped.

M. H. POWER (Chem. Abstr.).

*Comparative Investigation on the Analeptic Activity of Neospiran and Cardiazole.* (*Med. Klin.*, vol. xxxiii, p. 941, 1937.) Singer, R.

Experiments with cardiazole and neospiran on patients with depressed respiration and vascular collapse showed that neospiran was more rapid in its effect as a respiratory and circulatory stimulant than cardiazole, but its action was of shorter duration. It compared favourably with other analeptics.

G. H. W. LUCAS (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Status of Acetarone in the Treatment of Syphilis.* (*Urol. Cut. Rev.*, vol. xli, pp. 711-13, 1937.) Zakon, Samuel J.

-N-acetyl-4-hydroxy-m-arsanilic acid (acetarone), administered orally, has proved valuable as an antisyphilitic in cases of idiosyncrasy to neoarsphenamine, aortitis and advanced cardiovascular syphilis, mechanical difficulty in giving intravenous therapy, early syphilis in the aged and Wassermann-fast syphilis. It is also valuable as a tonic in those with latent syphilis who are underweight or anæmic, and for pre- and post-hyperpyrexia treatments of neurosyphilis, especially where tryparsamide cannot be used because of eye complications.

MARION HORN (Chem. Abstr.).