Cancer Complicating and Modifying the Course of Epilepsy. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xii, March,* 1933.) *Hodskins, M. B., and Guthrie, R. H.*

Dehydration has been favoured as a valuable aid in controlling convulsions. Cancer favours alkalosis of body-tissues. In a review of 55 cases of malignancy complicating epilepsy, it is shown that the number of seizures decreased as the malignancy progressed. Alkalosis obviously does not induce seizures in epileptic patients. It is probable that the cachexia and dehydration raise the convulsion threshold. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Human and Experimental Epilepsy [*Epilepsia experimental e humana*]. (*Revista da Assoç. Paulista de Med., vol. ii, March,* 1933.) *Martino, G.*

This paper is based upon researches at the medical school of Asunción, Paraguay, especially those of Prof. José Amantea, whose work has been done on the effects of strychnine locally applied to the sensori-motor centres of dogs. Three factors have been found necessary for the experimental production of epileptiform convulsions—an increase of central excitability by means of strychnine, a stimulation of the cutaneous zone corresponding to the centre treated with strychnine, and a constitutional predisposing factor. This last factor is of special importance. The question arises whether it is possible to produce an artificial predisposition in animals (and this has a bearing upon the subject of human idiopathic epilepsy). The author considers that this question cannot, as yet, be answered. It is the investigation of the predisposing factor that is of most importance for the solution of the problem of human idiopathic epilepsy.
M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Experimental Convulsive Seizures. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis., vol. lxxvii, March,* 1933.) *Wortis, S. B.*

The author considers that during a convulsive seizure there is a discharge of stimuli which flow out through all available neural mechanisms, both cerebro-spinal and vegetative. Vaso-constriction of cerebral vessels is certainly not the only mechanism capable of causing convulsive seizures.
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Experimental Convulsions Following Lesions of the Tuber Cinereum. (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat., vol. xii, March,* 1933.) *Wortis, S. B., and Klenke, D.*

The view has recently been taken that aberrations in function of the nuclei in the region of the tuber cinereum are the causative pathology in epilepsy. A review, however, of the literature seems to show that generalized convulsions can be produced by various disturbances in different parts of the central nervous system. It appears highly improbable that there is one specific " convulsogenic centre " responsible for all convulsive phenomena. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Influence of Variations in Fluid Intake on Intracranial Pressure in " Epileptics ". (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxix, March,* 1933.) *Fremont-Smith, F., and Merritt, H. H.*

The authors found in a group of epileptics that wide variations in the level of fluid intake had no appreciable effect on the pressure of the cerebro-spinal fluid. There was no effect on the incidence of convulsive seizures.
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Relation of Jugular Foramina to Epileptic Seizures and Hydrocephalus. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis., vol. lxxvii, April,* 1933.) *Davis, D. B.*

The author X-rayed the jugular foramina and measured their area. Of 40 patients with epileptic convulsions, 72·5% had foramina which were larger on the right. Ten cases with various diagnoses provided 9 with the right foramen the larger. Seven cases with hydrocephalus were X-rayed, and in 6 observations the foramina were too minute to permit accurate measurement. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.