

which begins with a separation of the intimal vessel layers outside the endothelium.

The endarteritis of the small vessels found in every case probably has two causations: (1) Purely mechanical as the result of œdema of the brain; (2) toxic irritation through the blood-stream.

Acellular areas (Verödungsherde) are frequently found in the brain, and may produce a permanent clinical picture if sufficiently numerous.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Calcium Content of the Brain and its Distribution in Various Regions during Diallylbarbituric Acid Narcosis.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, August, 1932.) Katzenelbogen, S.

The author estimated the calcium content of the whole brain in normal and narcotized cats and found no difference between the two.

He then examined various areas and found that the hypothalamic region from the optic chiasma to the root of the third nerve showed a higher calcium content than any other brain area in both the narcotized and control animals.

This finding suggests that calcium may play a certain rôle in the function of the hypothalamic region.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Blood-Cholesterol Studies in Mental Disease.* (*Amer. Journ. Psychiat.*, vol. xii, September, 1932.) Schube, P. G.

There are presented the total blood-cholesterol estimations, as measured in 100 c.c. of whole blood, in 54 "normal" individuals, and in 200 individuals "not normal" from a neuro-psychiatric point of view. The mean value of the "normal" group was higher than that of the "not normal" group, but the range of cholesterol estimations in the latter group covered a far greater area than that of the normal group. Of the "not normal" group there were 52% below normal range, 36% within normal range, and 12% above normal range.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Cholesterol Content of Blood in Epilepsy and in Feeble-mindedness.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, August, 1932.) Gray, H., and McGee, L. C.

The authors, using Bloor's method for estimating cholesterol, found an average value for whole blood in normal men of 194 mgrm. per 100 c.c. In epileptics they found an average of 165 mgrm. and in feeble-minded persons of 154 mgrm.

Convulsions were followed in about one hour by a drop in cholesterol, and thereafter there was a gradual rise extending over perhaps a month. Near an attack the ratio of the whole-blood cholesterol to the plasma cholesterol was raised owing probably to there being more cholesterol in the corpuscles and less in the plasma.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Basal Metabolic Rate in Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, vol. xxviii, July, 1932.) Damon, Le G. A.

From a study of 300 epileptic patients, 50% showed abnormal metabolic rates, usually towards a low figure. More women than men showed low rates;

neither age nor duration of the epilepsy had any influence. The percentage of low metabolic rates is greater in patients having frequent attacks.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

## 6. Mental Deficiency.

*Tuberose Sclerosis and Allied Conditions.* (*Brain*, vol. lv, September, 1932.)  
Critchley, M., and Earl, C. J. C.

The authors studied 29 cases of tuberose sclerosis. They consider that the evidence is increasing that the condition is a developmental anomaly commencing early in foetal life. The giant-cells met with are most likely a primitive type of cell not far removed from an undifferentiated neuroblast. Those cells may develop characteristics which are either glial or neuronie, hence two views as to the ætiology of the condition emerge, one regarding it as a hyperplastic disorder of the neuroglia, the other as a metaplasia affecting mainly the ectodermal tissues, but also to some extent the mesodermal and endodermal derivatives. The authors consider that the similarities between tuberose sclerosis and von Recklinghausen's disease have been rather over-emphasized.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Almost Feeble-Minded.* (*Psychol. Clinic*, vol. xxi, June-August, 1932.)  
Rosenstein, J. L.

Intelligence test results are of minor importance, even if they are exact. They do not tell us how the individual has obtained his score. We should be more interested in items which cannot be measured, but which must be inferred. The proper method is psychological rather than psychometric. Three cases are described in which a superficial examination would have given a diagnosis of feeble-mindedness, but in which subsequent training proved that such diagnosis was incorrect.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*The Rorschach Test as Applied to a Feeble-minded Group.* (*Arch. of Psychol.*, No. 136, 1932.) Beck, S. J.

The mode of attack by the feeble-minded on a problem is shown by the Rorschach test to display an absence of whole responses. The feeble-minded are more likely to react to details of the material presented than to combine the details into a meaningful whole. They are more interested in the unessential. The percentage of accurately seen forms shows an increase with advancing age. The percentage of animal responses shows the group to be more stereotyped in thought than the normal group is. Self-criticism appears about the eighth year. The percentage of original response shows that the feeble-minded are capable of originality. The movement score shows them to be almost incapable of creative fantasy. The correlation between the whole score and the mental age is not high enough to allow prediction of mental level from the whole response score. The advantages of the Rorschach test are that it is free from influence of schooling, the test material is entirely objective and simple in presentation, and the same material is