Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.*

1. Anatomy and Physiology.

The Cerebral Blood-flow in Man as Influenced by Adrenaline, Caffeine, Amyl Nitrite and Histamine. (*Amer. Heart Journ., vol. x, pp.* 916–24, 1935.) *Gibbs, F. A., Gibbs, E. L., and Lennox, W. G.*

Intravenous injections of large amounts of adrenaline caused a greatly increased cerebral blood-flow, but small amounts caused only a slight increase. Caffeine-sodium benzoate caused a decreased flow and increased blood-pressure. Amyl nitrate caused an increased flow and a lowered blood-pressure, suggesting dilatation of the cerebral vessels. Histamine caused a gradual progressive increase in blood-flow. Measurements were made with a thermo-electric flow recorder.

E. W. Scott (Chem. Abstr.).

The Effect of Injecting Certain Electrolytes into the Cisterna Magna on the Blood-Pressure. (*Amer. Journ. Med. Sci., vol. cxci, p.* 835, *June,* 1936.) *Resnik, H., et al.*

The intracisternal administration of potassium chloride caused a marked rise in the blood-pressure of dogs. Sodium chloride was without effect. Calcium salts produced only decline in blood-pressure, but had a marked and prolonged effect in preventing a rise in blood-pressure from subsequent injections of potassium chloride. Salts such as oxalate, phosphate and citrate, which diminish the ionization of calcium, had marked pressor effects. Lead caused a delayed but prolonged rise in blood-pressure. All these actions were observed following the use of doses which were ineffective when administered intravenously. The site of action of these electrolytes appeared to lie in or near the floor of the fourth ventricle. Effects persisting after section of the brain-stem above this level, were not obtained after section below, and were elicited by the application of as little as ·1 c.c. directly to this area.

All these electrolytes, given in large doses, produced death by respiratory paralysis. Marked initial stimulation of breathing was produced by potassium phosphate, oxalate and citrate, but not by calcium and magnesium. The former salts also caused general restlessness and muscular twitchings. These effects were relieved by ionized calcium salts. G. W. T. H. Fleming.

The Role of the Autonomic Nervous System in the Production of Pain. (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc., vol. cvi, p.* 350, *Feb.* 1, 1936.) *Davis, L., and Pollock, L. J.*

The authors show by experiments that the impulses of referred pain travel from the viscera along with either autonomic or spinal sensory fibres to the spinal cord by way of the posterior roots. After passing over a synapse with cells in

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