

and chronic alcoholics remove the alcohol more rapidly than normal subjects. This is ascribed to altered permeability of the membranes.

MILTON LEVY (Chem. Abstr.).

*Calcium Content of Different Parts of the Brain of Normal and Thyreoparathyroidectomized Rats.* (Biochem. Zeitschr., vol. cclxxxviii, pp. 393-401, 1936.) Farago, Stefan.

Different portions of the brain of four groups of rats (normal, thyreoparathyroidectomized, operated animals treated with thyroxine and animals treated with parathyroid extracts) were analysed for Ca. There is a very great difference in the Ca content of the large hemispheres (6 mgrm.%) and of the cerebellum (0.4 mgrm.%). In thyro-parathyroidectomized rats the Ca content of the brain and cerebellum is increased but is decreased in the cord. Thyroxine administration has no effect on the Ca content of the operated rats, but parathyroid extract not only restores the normal relationship in the Ca concentration of the different parts but raises the concentration over the normal value.

S. MORGULIS (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Influence of the Follicular Hormone upon Creatine Metabolism in the Muscular Dystrophies [Influenza dell' ormone folliculare in soggetti miodistrofici].* (Riv. Sper. di Freniat., vol. lxi, p. 101, March, 1937.) Paleari, A.

When cases of progressive muscular atrophy are treated with follicular hormone, creatinine metabolism is increased, with reduction of creatinine in the urine. This change was not observed in the other myopathies. These conclusions were based upon the examination of only a few cases.

H. W. EDDISON.

*Brain Phosphatase.* (Biochem. Journ., vol. xxx, p. 1089, July, 1936.) Giri, K. V., and Datta, N. C.

Brain phosphatase shows two optima, at pH 9.4-9.6 and at pH 5. The ratio between the activities of the two phosphatases is almost constant for brains of animals of the same species. The activity of acetone-treated brain extracts is about as high as that of liver of the same animal. The phosphatase can be purified by (a) isoelectric precipitation of the inert material at pH 4.8, (b) ordinary dialysis, (c) ultrafiltration through cellophane membrane, and (d) acetone precipitation. Magnesium ions activate the alkaline phosphatase only. The percentage activation is distinctly enhanced when the enzyme extract has been previously purified by dialysis. Sodium hexosediphosphate is more easily hydrolysed than sodium glycerophosphate by the two phosphatases.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

## 7. Criminology.

*Statistical Survey of Endocrinopathies Among Young Delinquents.* (Endocrinology, vol. xxi, p. 189, March, 1937.) Taylor, N. M., and Schaeffer, R. L.

The authors examined a group of 2,311 delinquent adolescents, consisting of 1,106 females and 1,205 males. The percentage of endocrinopathies was almost evenly distributed between the sexes with a total of 17%, which is 7% greater frequency than Engelbach's estimated glandular dysbalance in the general population. The greatest number of cases occurred in the pituitary group. Hypothyroidism accounted for the greatest percentage of female endocrinopathies. Gonadism comprised about 14% of the total glandular disturbances and included almost 3½ times as many males as females. If the group of probable endocrinopathies be added to the positively diagnosed cases the percentage rises to 24%.

There is a marked increase in delinquency during the difficult period of puberty, and a more acute numerical elevation and higher incidence among the endocrinopathies at the time of puberty.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.