

*Studies in Epilepsy. V. The Fibrin-Content of the Blood.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, August, 1928.) *Lennox, W. G.*

The author made measurements of blood and plasma fibrin in 100 epileptic patients of both sexes. Previously Besta had found a decrease in fibrin ferment in all but 8 of 45 epileptics examined, and Dienst had stated that the blood of epileptics was deficient in antithrombin.

Of the author's cases, 34 showed an increased plasma fibrin. In 7 of these there was an ascribable possible cause, in the remaining 27 the cause was not apparent. The author does not find definite evidence that persons who are subject to seizures show any abnormality of protein metabolism. It is possible that elevation of blood fibrin may be a more delicate indicator of protein destruction than other measurements cited. Possibly there may be an irritative lesion in the liver; the author thinks that the hepatic function in epilepsy needs investigation. Possibly there is some relation between the increased amount of fibrin and the viscosity and clotting-time of the blood. All these questions open up avenues of research into sedimentation velocity, concentration of other plasma proteins, etc.

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*The Acetic Anhydride—Sulphuric Acid Test for General Paralysis (Boltz Test).* (*Fourn. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, August, 1928.) *Myerson, A., and Halloran, R. D.*

The authors used this test in 25 cases of general paralysis and in 50 cases of organic disease of the nervous system. They conclude that the Boltz test is not specific for general paralysis, that only products rich in aldehyde should be used, that the test is positive in the presence of protein and the colour is a rough index of relative quantities, and that in a series of cases where the blood-serum was studied it had no specific value.

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*The Cellular Structure of the Cerebral Hemispheres of Lenin.* [*Die Zytoarchitektonik der Hirnhemisphären Lenins*]. (*Psych.-Neur. Wochens.*, No. 39, September 28, 1928.) *Mingazzini, G.*

Prof. Mingazzini gives an account of work that has been carried out during the last two years by Prof. Vogt, on the microscopical examination of the brain of Lenin. The work is far from completed, but some provisional results have been given in a semi-popular lecture, reported in the Russian papers. Vogt has found that the pyramidal cells of the third layer (he recognizes in all seven cortical layers), were in Lenin's case larger and richer in protoplasmic processes than usual, and states that such a development would account for Lenin's great mental vigour, his increased powers of association, his strong sense of reality, etc. The author comments on the materialistic tendency of Vogt's conceptions; he recalls the old controversy between Virchow and Haeckel on the function of the pyramidal cells, and points out the uses and limitations of anatomical research of this nature.

A. WALK.