

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

i. Neurology.

The Innervation of the Thymus. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, April, 1929.) Pines, L., and Majman, R.

The authors conclude that the thymus is supplied with a thoroughly differentiated nerve apparatus. There are vascular nerves as well as a sympathetic parenchymatous glandular nerve apparatus, closely related to the secretory function of the gland. The innervating apparatus of the thymus is partly of sympathetic, partly of cerebro-spinal origin. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Hoffman Reflex—A Simple Way of Reinforcing it and other Reflexes. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, March, 1929.) Pitfield, R. L.

The author regards the Hoffman reflex as not always due to organic destructive lesions of the pyramidal tract. At times a more or less functional derangement of the pyramidal tract is responsible for its appearance. It is a common sign in high blood-pressure cases. The reflex can be reinforced by encircling the upper arm with the cuff of a blood-pressure apparatus and blowing it up to 300 mm. In functional nervous cases such as neurasthenia it is rare unless another factor such as hyperpiesis exists.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Effect of Alcohol on the Patellar Tendon Reflex Time. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, March, 1929.) Travis, L. E., and Dorsey, J. M.

The authors studied the effect of alcohol on five men. Records were taken just preceding, during and succeeding partial stupor resulting from alcoholic intoxication. As stupor advanced, the reflex time progressively and irregularly decreased, to increase in the same manner as the stupor cleared up. As stupor advanced, action current duration progressively and irregularly increased, to decrease in the same manner as the stupor cleared up. There would appear to be an inverse relationship between variation in reflex time and action current duration. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Organic Nervous Disease in Identical Twins. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, March, 1929.) Wilson, S. A. K., and Wolfsohn, J. M.

After discussing the various theories of the formation of identical twins and the occurrence in them of nervous and mental disease,