

in 51.7%. In the reduction of the weights of the pancreas and of the brain, the element due to epilepsy *per se* is greater than the element due to emaciation. Microcephaly accounts for a small proportion of the brains which are subnormal in weight. There was no evidence of retrograde changes in the weight of the pancreas with the advent of senescence. The ratio of the weight of the brain to that of the pancreas is not constant in epilepsy.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Some Observations on the Leucocyte Count in Epilepsy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, February, 1929.) Patterson, H. A., and Weingrow, S. M.

¶ The authors studied 182 cases of epilepsy. 52% showed a leucocytosis, 25% gave normal counts, and 20% showed leucopenia. The leucocytosis noted was not neutrophilic but lymphocytic. Within the limits of physiological variation the rise in the leucocyte count is the same in non-idiopathic as in idiopathic epilepsy. No connection exists between the leucocyte count in epilepsy and the presence or absence of an aura. The leucocyte count in epilepsy does not appear to be affected by the secondary anæmia which often accompanies this condition.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Amaurotic Family Idiocy and General Lipoid Degeneration.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, February, 1929.) Sachs, B.

Sachs points out how clinical and pathological work has revealed a surprising relationship with another group of diseases, *i.e.*, with Gaucher's disease and with the Niemann-Pick type of spleno-hepatomegaly. In both groups there is a general lipoid cellular degeneration with enlargement of the spleen and liver. Pick contends that in Tay-Sachs disease the same disturbance in lipoid metabolism is the predominant factor. Sachs thinks that there is undoubtedly a close relationship between the two diseases and that some endocrine disturbance is at work. In the only cases where the disease had been checked for a time, the children had been given various glandular extracts.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Brain in Mongolian Idiocy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, December, 1928.) Davidoff, L. M.

The author thinks that there are few morphological changes that are constant with the exception of a small cerebellum and brain-stem, embryonic convolutional pattern, and a paucity of ganglion cells in the third cortical layer. He thinks that there may be a degenerative process at work in the early months of life. This is shown by the presence of granular corpuscles filled with the remains of the myelin from the axons of the degenerated cells. The brain in Mongolian idiocy shows (1) agenesis evidenced by cell poverty and failure of gyral development (probably there is also a degenerative process in very early life), (2) aplasia, shown by