

by stimulation of the autonomic nerves. Similarly glucose absorption is altered by the administration of acetyl-choline and adrenaline.

J. F. LYMAN (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Appearance of an Acetyl Choline-like Substance in the Coronary Venous Blood of Warm-blooded Animals upon Stimulation of the Vagus Nerves.* (Arch. Exper. Path. Pharmacol., vol. clxxii, p. 170, 1933.) Feldberg, W., and Krayer, O.

After electrical stimulation of the vagus the substance can be demonstrated in the blood of the coronary vein in dogs and cats, provided that the acetyl choline destroying activity of normal blood is previously inhibited by the intravenous injection of physostigmine. The acetyl choline activity disappears within a few minutes after the stimulation, and is believed to be due to acetyl choline as such.

H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*Parasitosis of the Central Nervous System [Parasitosis del Sistema Nervioso Central].* (Arch. de Neurobiol., vol. xii, p. 821, Nov.-Dec., 1932.) Albo, W. L.

This paper contains what appears to be an exhaustive list of all parasites, animal and vegetable, which have been recorded as affecting the central nervous system. Brief clinical descriptions are provided. The occurrence of these various parasites varies much in frequency, and some are only found in tropical countries. The *Spirocheta pallida* is not included, on account of the large amount of work which has already been done in respect to that organism.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Histopathology of True Epilepsy [Histopatologia de la epilepsia genuina].* (Arch. de Neurobiol., vol. xiii, p. 515, May-June, 1934.) Prados y Such, M.

After a critical review of the work which has been done on this subject, the author concludes that there is no anatomical basis sufficient to make us suspect that in idiopathic epilepsy there exists a cerebral process, with morphological alterations, which can be regarded as the cause of the disease. In the present state of our knowledge we cannot speak of a pathological anatomy of true epilepsy, but only of an anatomy of the epileptic fit.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*Experimental Toxic Approach to Mental Diseases, Parts I and II.* (Psychiat. Quart., vols. vi and vii, pp. 581 and 115, Oct., 1932, and Jan., 1933.) Ferraro, A., and Kilman, J. E.

The authors give an extensive résumé of the present position of the toxic theory of mental disorders, particularly with reference to the part played by the toxic amines indole and histamine. In their second part they report experiments on cats given subcutaneous injections of indole and histamine, separately and together, and similar experiments on animals under the influence of potassium cyanide, which decreases the oxidizing power of cells. They found that the association of histamine and indole shortened the duration of the cat's life and aggravated the pathological changes detectable in the brain tissue. The lesions caused by injecting 100 mgrm. indole and 3 mgrm. histamine were very severe, and contrasted strongly with the mild lesions following either 100 mgrm. indole or 5 mgrm. histamine alone. The individual resistance of the different cats varies considerably. In dealing with human beings it is important to remember that the association of indole and histamine may not be constant, so that the effects may take very much longer to appear. Both indole and histamine damage the liver, the latter even in small doses. Both are detoxicated in the wall of the bowel, and if this wall is injured or diseased, then these toxic amines can reach the liver and damage it. Various authors during the last 30 years have described chronic and degenerative types of involvement of the liver in dementia præcox.

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