Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

The Influence of Efferent Cerebral Pathways upon the Sympathetic Nervous System. (*Brain, July*, 1930.) *Langworthy, O. R., and Richter, C. P.*

Using the galvanic skin response as a measure of sweat-gland activity, the controlling influences from the cortex, brain-stem and spinal cord have been investigated by the authors. Definite galvanic skin responses were obtained by faradic stimulation of two areas adjacent to the motor cortex, of the floor of the third ventricle, the cortico-spinal and rubro-spinal tracts, the vestibular nuclei, the posterior column nuclei and the posterior columns of the cervical cord.

They conclude that the same cerebro-efferent pathways which influence somatic motor cells also control preganglionic sympathetic cells, and that this cerebral control is predominantly an inhibitory one. In general, cerebral centres seem to exert final control upon lower centres through well-known cerebro-efferent pathways.

Wm. McWilliam.

Experimental Lesions in the Tuber Cinereum of the Dog followed by Epileptiform Convulsions and Changes in Blood Chemistry. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat., October*, 1930.) *Morgan, L. O., and Johnson, C. A.*

The authors operated on 16 dogs, and produced lesions in the tuber cinereum by injecting ·1 c.c. of a weak solution of mercuric chloride. The animals, who remained otherwise normal in appearance, developed periodic convulsions. The first convulsion began from 2 to 6 hours after the operation, was usually mild, and was accompanied by various symptoms of vasomotor and sympathetic upset. The convulsions gradually become more frequent and more severe. After the convulsion the dogs remained unconscious for several minutes, following which they were confused and disoriented. The convulsions lasted from 1·5 to 3 minutes. The constant phenomena were clonic and tonic spasms, dilatation of the pupils, salivation, marked increase in the rate of the heart-beat, a rise of 1° F. or more in body temperature, unconsciousness, frequent urination and occasional defæcation. Finally the animal passed into status, which lasted for two hours or more and ended in death. There was a continuous state of coma, greatly increased rate of heart-beat, dilatation of the pupils, salivation, an inactive state of the