

*The Infantile Type of Family Amaurotic Idiocy.* (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, May, 1927.) Leiner, J. H., and Goodhart, S. P.

The authors report two cases which differ from most of the infantile cases in the absence of myelin sheath degeneration, in this respect resembling the juvenile type. The authors do not confirm Hassin's conclusion that the pathological process is most pronounced in the optic thalamus. The sieve-like appearance which Hassin describes and figures they consider to be due to the accumulation of lipoid droplets and not to the excessive formation of Gitter cells. In both cases there was a marked ectodermal selectivity. In one case the cerebral hemispheres were more involved, in the other the cerebellum. In the entire group of infantile types of amaurotic family idiocy we find a variety of sub-groups with mutations in the pathological pictures. The connecting links in this group are the ectodermal selectivity and the different degrees of Schaffer's type of cell degeneration, which was pointed out and emphasized for the juvenile type of Spielmeyer in 1906.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Blood-groups in Mental and Nervous Cases* [*Les Groupes Sanguins dans les Maladies Mentales et Nerveuses*]. (*L'Encéph.*, December, 1926.) Toulouse, E., Schiff, P., and Weismann-Netter, R.

Many tests were made in a variety of cases, and the authors state their results shed no light on psychopathic problems.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

"*Rachimetry*"—*A Study of the "Differential Tension" of the Cerebro-spinal Fluid* [*La Rachimétrie—Étude sur la Tension Rachidienne Différentielle*]. (*L'Encéph.*, July-August, 1926.) Nuñez, P. E.

The author has studied the tension of the cerebro-spinal fluid in a large number of cases. His method is to measure first the initial tension on entry of the needle to the spinal canal, and then to record again after allowing 5 c.c. of fluid to escape. The difference between the two figures he calls the differential tension or "T.D." He follows Claude in regarding as normal a pressure of 20 cm. of water in the lying and 30 cm. in the sitting posture. His conclusions are (1) that estimation of the tension is impossible without a manometer; (2) the tension and the quantity of cerebro-spinal fluid are not in any constant relation; (3) primary increased tension without obvious cause and with a normal fluid is not uncommon; (4) spinal and arterial hypertension are not related; (5) in suspected cases of brain-tumour a T.D. of more than 10 points supports the diagnosis.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Study of the Cerebral Pulse* [*Études sur le Pouls Cérébral*]. (*L'Encéph.*, April, 1927.) Tinel, J.

The tests on which this paper is based were made on old-standing trephine cases, and the author's experiments do not confirm results

previously recorded by others. He concludes that the cerebral circulation is controlled by a vaso-motor system exactly like the systemic circulation, and that there is no relation between any form of mental activity and the state for the time being of the blood-vessels of the brain. On the other hand, certain of the paroxysmal sequelæ of encephalitis do appear to be of vaso-motor origin, and these can sometimes be stopped by modifying the blood-pressure, either by increasing it by hyperpnœa or diminishing it by amyl nitrite.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Permeability of the "Central Nervous Barrier"* [*Sur la Perméabilité de la Barrière Nerveuse Centrale*]. (*L'Encéph.*, March, 1927.) Bau-Prussak, S., and Prussak, L.

This paper refers to the functions of the membranes of the central nervous system which allow, or prevent, the interchange of various substances, toxic or nutritive, between the blood-stream and the cerebro-spinal fluid. Permeability was tested by the method of Walter—the administration of potassium bromide for three to five days and the simultaneous quantitative estimation of bromine in the blood and cerebro-spinal fluid. The technique of the test is described. Normally the co-efficient varies from 2·90 to 3·30. The authors examined 108 cases of organic nervous diseases, psychoses, etc., and conclude that the method is of little value for differential diagnosis, though it can be used to test the effects of treatment.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Pressure in the Retinal Arteries and in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid* [*Tension Rétinienne et Tension du Liquide Céphalo-Rachidien*]. (*L'Encéph.*, January, 1927.) Claude, H., Lamache, A., and Dubar, J.

The blood-pressure in the retinal arteries is measured by the instrument and method of Bailliart. A large number of observations have been made on sixty cases. The retinal blood-pressure is found to be in constant relationship with intra-cranial pressure, as recorded by lumbar puncture and the use of the manometer, and the authors claim that by Bailliart's method changes in the cerebro-spinal tension can be observed without the need for repeated punctures.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Alkaline Tide of the Urine in Epilepsy* [*Le Flux Alcalin Urinaire dans l'Épilepsie*]. (*L'Encéph.*, March, 1926.) Rafflin, M.

This short paper summarizes the present knowledge of the pH of the urine. The author was unable to detect any variation in the urinary pH in epileptics.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Study of the Urinary pH in Epilepsy, Migraine and the Crises of Anxiety or Excitement* [*Étude sur le P.H. Urinaire dans l'Épilepsie, la Migraine et les Crises d'Anxiété ou d'Excitation*]. (*L'Encéph.*, March, 1926.) Tinel, Westphal and Valance.

These authors have found an increased alkalinity in the urine accompanying certain paroxysmal diseases. In their view the