

*Experimental Toxic Encephalo-myelopathy.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. vii, p. 267, April, 1933.) Ferraro, A.

The author investigated the development of diffuse sclerosis following subcutaneous injections of potassium cyanide in 14 cats and 4 monkeys. All but two cases developed the histo-pathological picture characteristic of diffuse sclerosis. There was a definite demyelination, diffuse and symmetrical involvement of the axis cylinders, and typical areas of necrosis and softening. There was a predilection for the periventricular areas. The author points out the similar results obtained by Weil and Crandall after ligation of the pancreatic or bile-ducts, which procedure resulted in demyelination and necrosis in the white substance of the brain, and more so in the periventricular areas. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Histological Changes in the Central Nervous System in Acute Hydrazine Hydrate Poisoning* [*Alterazioni istologiche del sistema nervosa centrale nell'intossicazione sperimentale acuta da idrato d'idrazina*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xlii, p. 27, July-Aug., 1933.) Curti, G.

The author carried out experiments on seven rabbits and a dog, using two rabbits and another dog as controls. He injected a sub-lethal dose of hydrazine hydrate, dissolved in distilled water, by the endoperitoneal route. He found degeneration of the nerve-cells and of the astrocytes, and areas of racemose degeneration similar to those described by Buscaino. The oligodendroglia appeared more or less swollen, but the microglia did not show any definite changes.

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*The Microglia in Mongolian Idiocy* [*La microglia nell'idiozia mongoloide*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment.*, vol. xli, p. 293, Mar.-Apr., 1933.) Cardona, F.

The author studied the microglia by various methods in two cases of mongolian idiocy. He found only a slight increase in the cerebral cortex, without any marked progressive or regressive changes; the microglia of the base was normal. This agrees with the older ideas recently confirmed by Davidoff that the changes are confined to the cortex, and consist of a hypoplasia. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Spinal Fluid Sugar and Chlorides in Neurosyphilis.* (*Amer. Journ. Syph.*, vol. xvii, p. 382, 1933.) Brewer, G.

In 86 controls the mean ratio of cerebro-spinal fluid sugar to blood sugar was .647, while the ratio of cerebro-spinal fluid chlorides to blood chlorides was 1.48. The chloride ratio is significantly decreased in neuro-syphilis only when severe meningeal irritation or damage occurs; in 5 cases of general paresis the average ratio was 1.36. The sugar ratio, which showed considerable individual variation, tended to decrease with increasing meningeal damage; for the above paresis cases the average ratio was .519. B. C. BRUNSTETTER (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Barrier between the Blood and Cerebro-spinal Fluid.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 125, Feb., 1934.) Malamud, W., Miller, W. R., and Mullins, B. M.

The bromide distribution ratio described by Walter was studied in 643 cases of mental disease with the following results: The schizophrenias show a predominance of ratios over 3.20; the psychoneuroses, psychopathic personalities and paranoid states ratios mostly between 3.20-2.80. The manic-depressive psychoses resembled these, but had less of the cases above 3.20 and more below 2.80. The toxic psychoses and the cases of untreated general paralysis showed ratios mainly below 2.80, and none above 3.20. In 530 of the cases in which the protein content of the spinal fluid was determined simultaneously with the permeability ratio, there was a tendency towards a general correlation between the two values. In the cases of