

Barbital, .25 grm. for 13 days, 65% ; rutonal, .2 grm. for 14 days, 49% ; dial, .1 grm. for 13 days, 30% ; gardenal, .2 grm. for 14 days, 25%. The barbituric acids are resistant to putrefaction. A. W. DOX (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Antidotal Action of Picrotoxin, Strychnine and Caffeine in Acute Intoxication by the Barbiturates.* (Journ. Pharmacol., vol. xlix, p. 133, 1933.) Maloney, A. H.

Picrotoxin is superior to either strychnine or cocaine as an antidote to eleven typical barbiturates. T. H. RIDER (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Influence of Barbital on the Activity and Learning of White Rats.* (Journ. Comp. Psychol., vol. xvi, p. 317, Dec., 1933.) Omwake, L.

The sodium salt of barbital (veronal) was used, and administration was by intraperitoneal injection—a method which was found to be safe and satisfactory. When barbital was injected in doses of 100 mgrm. per kilogramme of body-weight, on alternate days for four months, the activity of the injected rats was slightly lower than that of the controls; there was also a lowering of learning ability. The constant use of barbital over long periods of time and in large doses is relatively safe; its therapeutic use would never be contra-indicated on the basis of possible chronic physical or mental changes caused thereby. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

*After-effects of Hypnotics (Barbituric Acid Derivatives).* (Arch. Exp. Path. Pharm., vol. clxx, p. 347, 1933.) Mezey, K.

The computing efficiency is decreased on the morning after the ingestion of hypnotic doses of allonal, somnifen or dial. Luminal is even more depressant, veronal somewhat less. Veronal and luminal cause increased reaction time and decreased motor performance as after-effects. H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*Habituation and Cumulation Phenomena. III: The Antagonism of Some Barbituric Acid Derivatives.* (Arch. Exp. Path. Pharmacol., vol. clxxii, p. 645, 1933.) Bousmann, M. R.

The administration of phanodorm to dogs prevents the anti-diuretic action of phenobarbital or prominal given later the same day. The anti-diuretic action of tonephin cannot be prevented. The efficacy of hypnotics in preventing anti-diuresis varies inversely with the ease of detoxication *in vivo*.

H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*Studies on Barbiturates.* (Arch. Int. Pharmacodynamie, vol. xlvi, p. 76, 1933.) Koppányi, T., Murphy, W. S., and Krop, S.

Barbiturates can be determined colorimetrically by adding cobalt acetate and barium hydroxide dissolved in absolute methyl alcohol to a chloroform extract of the unknown. Human beings, cats and dogs excrete in the urine 40–90% of barbital taken by mouth; fowls excrete approximately 30%. The rate and degree of excretion are not affected by diuretics. The excretion of the other barbiturates (dial, neonal, phenobarbital, pernocton and amytal) is less than that of barbital, decreasing in the order named. The blood concentration of barbital in the first two hours after its administration decreases sharply (fixation by the tissues), followed by a slow decrease (renal excretion). Barbital added to blood *in vivo* or *in vitro* is changed to diethyl barbituric acid. The ratio of plasma to erythrocyte concentration is 3 : 1. The brain does not store more barbital than do other organs. H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*The Inhibition of Diuresis by Hypnotics.* (Arch. Int. Pharmacodynamie, vol. xlvi, p. 97, 1933.) Walton, R. P.

Paraldehyde and sodium phenobarbital inhibit diuresis in dogs. The former is a safe anæsthetic, the latter is unsafe. "Metzrazol" effectively counteracts

the depressant action of paraldehyde; picrotoxin is not suitable because effective doses are convulsant. Stimulants do not effectively counteract sodium barbital or similar hypnotics, which act over a long period and cause motor excitation.

H. EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

*Recent Experiences Concerning Morphine Withdrawal in Public Hospitals* [*Neue Erfahrungen über Morphinentziehungen im offenen Krankenhaus*]. (*Deutsch. med. Wochenschr.*, No. 7, p. 249, 1933.) Wittke, J.

The paper describes the results of treatment of 220 morphine addicts. Prolonged narcosis is not advised, and the withdrawal of morphine is done abruptly. Instead of narcosis, the author recommends using the preparation "helvetin" (made by "Ropha" A. G., of Basle), which is an addition product of a 10% 1-3-dimethyl-oxypurine, Na-Ca-ortho-benzoic acid with novocain added; small doses of the barbiturates may be given concurrently for the first two or three days. It is claimed that helvetin prevents unpleasant and serious symptoms of abstinence, if given over the course of two or three weeks.

R. STRÖM-OLSEN.

*The Psycho-medical Correction of the Drug Habit.* (*Journ. Abnorm. and Soc. Psychol.*, vol. xxviii, p. 119, July-Sept., 1933.) Miner, J. B.

The author refers to Modenos' blister-serum method of curing drug addicts. He also estimated the degree of intraversion-extroversion on the Bernreuter scale. Three people who had been addicts were cured, and expressed no desire to return to the drug rated high on the *extraversion* scale, and two addicts who persisted in returning to drugs rated high on the *introversion* scale. Introversion is highly correlated with the neurotic constitution on the Bernreuter scale. These results, as far as they go, confirm McDougall's hypothesis of the close association of the alkaloid drugs with the temperament of the introvert. They suggest the connection of the morphine habit with neurotic tendency, and to a lesser degree with submissiveness, and with a lack of self-sufficiency.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Treatment of Dementia Præcox by Continuous Oxygen Administration in Chambers and Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide Inhalations.* (*Psychiat. Quart.*, vol. viii, p. 34, Jan., 1934.) Hinsie, L. E., et al.

The authors conclude that oxygen and carbon dioxide treatment of catatonic dementia præcox is not to be advocated as a treatment.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*The Manganese Treatment of Schizophrenic Disorders.* (*Journ. Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxix, p. 59, Jan., 1934.) Hoskins, R. G.

Nine schizophrenic patients were given manganese chloride by mouth over a period of several weeks without detectable influence upon the psychosis. Thirty patients were subjected to intramuscular injections of a colloidal preparation of manganese without any effect on the clinical or metabolic condition. These negative results suggest that beneficial effects claimed by earlier investigations may be due to unintentional psychotherapy.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Treatment by Ephedrine of Accidents Occurring after Spinal Anæsthesia* [*Tratamiento de los accidentes postraquiánestésicos por la efetonina*]. (*Arch. de Neurobiol.*, vol. xiii, p. 445, May-June, 1934.) Albo, W. L.

The unpleasant effects which may be produced by lumbar puncture, whether for anæsthetic or diagnostic purposes, can be largely obviated by the employment of ephedrine. The author recommends the subcutaneous injection, 30 minutes prior to the lumbar puncture, of 0.05 grm. of ephedrine combined with 0.2 grm. of caffeine.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.