

subjected to the treatment showed no alteration in their condition. In the 6 Parkinsonians the essential neurological state was unrelieved, though some amelioration of the general condition was noted. S. M. COLEMAN.

Therapeutic Euthanasia [Eutanasia terepéutica]. (La Semana Méd., vol. xli, p. 391, Feb. 1, 1934.) Moss, J. J.

According to the author there is a growing demand for the legalization of therapeutic euthanasia in cases of painful and incurable maladies. Three types of case may be distinguished: (1) The patient is aware of his condition and of the impossibility of his cure, and demands death. Society should allow the wish of the patient to be carried into effect. (2) The patient is incurable, but is incapable of appreciating his condition or of desiring death. Society, with the consent of the patient's family, should appoint a medico-legal commission to carry out such examinations as may be necessary in order to decide upon the desirability of euthanasia. (3) The patient is incurable, but refuses euthanasia. In this case some authorities contend that euthanasia should, after minute medical examination, be allowed, even against the wish of the patient's family. The whole question is complicated by the fact that therapeutic euthanasia might be liable to abuse, but this danger should not prevent us from studying the question without prejudice.

M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

6. Pathology and Biochemistry.

Morphological Metabolism of Neutral Fats in the Central Nervous System During Development of the Embryo. (Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., vol. cxiv, p. 578, 1933.) Hadjioloff, A., and Ouzounoff, G.

In the chick embryo neutral fats were detected in the central nervous system from the fifth to about the fifteenth day; they then disappeared.

L. E. GILSON (Chem. Abstr.).

Nerve Catalase. (Amer. Journ. Physiol., vol. cvi, p. 404, 1933.) Schmitt, F. O., and Skow, R. K.

Frog nerve contains relatively little catalase. Nerve tissue contains a thermostable substance that actively catalyses the oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids. It is unlikely that the oxidation catalyst is the residue of catalase alone.

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

The Effect of Vitamin B₁ upon the Respiratory Quotient of Brain Tissue. (Biochem. Journ., vol. xxvii, p. 1927, Dec., 1933.) Sinclair, H. Mc.

The respiration of brain tissue from normal, rice-fed and polyneuritic pigeons was studied in the presence of lactate, buffered with either phosphate or bicarbonate. The respiratory quotient of the tissue from polyneuritic pigeons is low, and is raised nearly to the normal value by the addition *in vitro* of minute amounts of crystalline vitamin B₁. This low value is independent of inanition, since the addition of vitamin does not influence the respiratory quotient of tissue from normal pigeons, and hardly influences the quotient of tissue from pigeons fed on polished rice but not showing symptoms.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Influence of Nervous Stimulation on Absorption from the Intestine; the Humoral Theory of Nervous Action. (Amer. Journ. Physiol., 1933, cvi, p. 283.) Gellhorn, E., and Northup, D.

In a frog preparation in which the intestine is perfused with isotonic glucose, and the blood-vessels supply the intestine perfused with Ringer solution, and the perfusion rate is kept constant, the absorption of glucose is regularly altered