

hyper-alkalinity predisposes to the crises, and does not result from them.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*A Contribution to the Study of the Body Fluids in Epilepsy [Contribution à l'Étude Humorale de l'Epilepsie]. (L'Encéph., September–October, 1926.) Rafflin, R.*

This paper reviews the literature to date on the reactions of the blood and urine in epilepsy, and contains the results of hourly estimations of the pH in epileptics and in normal persons. The variations are found to be more marked in epilepsy, and the conclusion is reached that the normal digestive alkaline tide exaggerates an endogenous intoxication and is probably mainly responsible for the epileptic fit.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Pulmonary Hyper-aëration—Acido-basic Disparity of the Blood and Tissues [Hyperventilation Pulmonaire—Déséquilibre Acido-Basique du Sang et des Tissus]. (L'Encéph., September–October, 1926.) Radovici, A.*

The author has tested the results of voluntary hyperpnœa on 20 cases, some normal, some suffering from neuroses, organic nervous disease and epilepsy. The hyperpnœa was maintained for 10 to 30 minutes in each case and its results tested by Chvostek's sign, by the electrical excitability of muscle, by the oculo-cardiac reflex and the atropin test. The results in each group are set out in detail. The alkalinity of the blood was immediately increased by the hyperpnœa, and a state of tetany and of para-sympathetic tonus was induced in all cases within a few minutes. In all cases of epilepsy a fit was produced within 30 minutes, and the author considers this can be relied on as a test for true epilepsy.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Affectivity [Sur l'Affectivité]. (Journ. Neur. et Psychiat. Belg., May, 1927.) Cuylits, Dr.*

The author discusses the rôle of the sympathetic system not only in normal mental activity but in the psychoses, and concludes that it has been undervalued. He considers that though often regarded as of secondary importance the sympathetic is the source of affectivity and of spontaneous mental activity, and that psychoses are due to its disordered action.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Cerebral Starvation due to Premature Arterio-Sclerosis, without Focal Ischaemia [La Méioprégie Cérébrale par Angio-sclérose Précoce sans Ischémie en Foyer]. (L'Encéph., March, 1927.) Claude, H., and Cuel, J.*

In this paper is described a case of advanced cerebral arterio-sclerosis, notably diffuse in distribution and without focal lesions, associated with increased intra-cranial tension, in which the symptoms began at the age of 39 years. The authors discuss the symptoms and morbid anatomy, and show how their case is