
II. The Effect of Various Substances upon the Blood Flow through the Brain. (Ibid., pp. 640—64.)

The blood-vessels of the brain are particularly sensitive to substances that decrease the vascular tonus (amyl nitrite, nitroglycerin), dilatation being obtained with doses far less than those necessary to affect the peripheral blood-pressure. They are also susceptible to substances that affect the vessels by a neurological route (vaso-constriction by strychnine, markedly decreased by section of the cervical sympathetics; either vaso-constriction or vaso-dilatation by caffeine, depending upon the general condition of the animal). The injection of acetylcholine into either the general or cerebral circulation causes dilatation of the cerebral vessels, less marked, however, than that observed in the general circulation. The effects of numerous other pharmacological agents are described in detail.

Harry Eagle (Chem. Abstr.).


The traditional "uncleanness" of a menstruating woman is based upon something more than superstition. Studies conducted for more than ten years have established the existence in the blood serum, the blood cells, the sweat, milk, tears, urine and other secretions of a menstruating woman of a poison, closely related to oxycholesterol, to which the name of menotoxin has been applied. The most striking and characteristic effects of menotoxin are of a phytotoxic nature; but a number of zoopharmacological reactions have also been described. Injections of menotoxin have a markedly depressant effect upon animals. It is probable that a fertile field of research has thus been opened up, and further work may lead to important results in medicine and pharmacology.

M. Hamblin Smith.

2. Psychology and Psychopathology.


Constructive apraxia is an interference with the ability to draw from a copy, put the figures of a puzzle together or build with bricks. These patients can light a candle, fasten a button, etc., quite easily, i.e., they can carry out automatic actions. The writer does not agree with the view that constructive apraxia is due to an affection of the optic-kinetic association. He thinks that there exists a special psychic structure enabling us to see things stereoscopically arranged in space: the spatial sense factor in our psyche proves to be a formal constituent of our power of perception and our power of movement.

G. W. T. H. Fleming.


The authors summarize and discuss the various views expressed on handedness and laterality in relation to stuttering. They point out that despite what is said to the contrary, change of handedness occurs with significant frequency in the history of cases of stuttering. This is especially true when the changes of handedness are thorough-going, and almost all such changes are from left to right-handedness.

Stutterers differ significantly from right-handed normal speakers with respect to peripheral sidedness, showing a greater degree of left-laterality and ambilaterality. They differ from left-handed and ambidextrous normal speakers to a much smaller extent, differing least from ambidextrous normal speakers.