

Aschner describes other interesting points brought out in his study. The reflex is more easily obtained in narcosis than in patients who are conscious.

Hypophysis Glycosuria and its Relation to the Diabetes of Acromegaly.—It is now quite generally accepted that in acromegaly there is hyperfunction of the hypophysis, which may be of etiological importance. Since many cases of acromegaly are complicated with diabetes, BORCHARDT (*Ztschr. f. klin. Med.*, 1908, lxvi, 332) considers it possible that the latter may be due to the same cause. To test this hypothesis he has injected extracts of the hypophysis subcutaneously in rabbits. The extract was obtained from the hypophysis of man and the horse. In each animal used, following the injection of a rather large dose of extract, glycosuria occurred. The amount of sugar varied from a trace to 4.2 per cent., the glycosuria being transient and seemingly independent of the size of the dose of extract. In two animals hyperglycemia was demonstrated, the blood showing 0.41 per cent. sugar in one instance. In dogs the results were inconstant. Brain extract produced no glycosuria when injected subcutaneously. In reviewing 176 cases of acromegaly in the literature Borchardt finds diabetes in 35.5 per cent. of cases. The pancreas was normal histologically in most of the cases examined. Borchardt thinks his experiments make it probable, although by no means certain, that the diabetes of acromegaly is to be explained by hypersecretion of the hypophysis cerebri.

The Thymus in Basedow's Disease.—CAPELLE (*Munch. med. Woch.*, 1908, lv, 1826) has interested himself in the question of sudden death as a result of operation in cases of Basedow's disease. Some have ascribed death to the narcosis, others to a certain flooding of the blood with the products of the thyroid gland. But the use of cocaine anesthesia has been followed by death, and, indeed, the simple tying of the arteries has resulted fatally. A study of the literature shows that enlargement of the thymus is found in fatal cases with great frequency. Capelle finds that of 60 cases (autopsy), 79 per cent. showed a hypertrophic thymus. The operative and postoperative fatal cases had in every instance an enlarged thymus. The investigation suggests: (1) That the thymus is not necessarily enlarged in Basedow's disease. (2) That its enlargement is clinically a good indicator of the severity of the case. (3) That the deaths from heart failure after operations are, in reality, thymus deaths. Cases which show a persistent enlarged thymus should not be subjected to operation.

Salt Metabolism in Experimental Nephritis.—SCHIROKAUER (*Ztschr. f. klin. Med.*, 1908, lxvi, 182) has produced nephritis in rabbits by administering uranium nitrate and potassium chromate. Severe kidney lesions were obtained, often accompanied by anasarca. Quantitative analysis of the phosphates, chlorides, and sulphates give the following results: In nephritis with generalized oedema one finds an increased water content of the organs (muscle, liver) as a manifestation of the general retention of water. With this there is also found augmentation of the total salts of the organs which is ascribed essentially to the retention of chlorides. The phosphates are not increased in the muscles, but in the

liver the quantity is variable, being above normal occasionally. The sulphates of the muscles are within the normal limits. In the blood, however, the findings are different, the total ash showing a definite, though slight, diminution. The phosphates of the blood remain normal, while the sulphates in animals poisoned with uranium are abnormally high.

Graphic Studies of the Percussion Note.—MAY and LINDEMANN (*Deut. Arch. f. klin. Med.*, 1908, xciii, 500), in their studies upon the tympanic and non-tympanic percussion note, have carried out numerous experiments from which they draw the following conclusions: The tympanic note is characterized by the uniformity of its vibration form. The tympanic note of the abdomen arises chiefly from one kind of vibration, the ground tone (*Grundtöne*), which is very closely related physically to the pure tone. Additional vibrations are often found, but only in the form of harmonic overtones. As yet their determination has only revealed the first overtone. The non-tympanic note, on the contrary, shows as its characteristic feature a complicated form of vibrations with very unequal oscillations.

Observations in Experimental Anemia.—MORAWITZ and PRATT (*Munch. med. Woch.*, 1908, lv, 1817) have found in the course of their investigations some interesting phenomena in experimental anemia of rabbits. In cases of pyrocin anemia they have noted the well-known fact that the animals soon became tolerant to the poison. This they have shown to be due to increased resistance of the red blood cells as manifested toward various hemolytic agents, such as sodium chloride solutions of different strength, alkalies, saponin, chloroform, ether, and hemolytic sera. They have obtained practically the same results with washed corpuscles. Therefore the increased resistance is not a property of the serum. In rabbits made anemic by repeated venesections no increase in the resistance of the erythrocytes is found, but when laked blood is injected intraperitoneally the resistance is increased, showing that the increased resistance is not wholly the result of the pyrocin. Four to six days after discontinuing injections of pyrocin the heightened resistance is lost. From the studies of others with human blood, *i. e.*, the finding of increase in the resistance of the corpuscles in pernicious anemia as the condition of the patient grows worse, they think it possible that some prognostic conclusions might be obtained from the study of resistance in this disease. In rabbits made anemic both by pyrocin and by venesection they find a remarkable oxidation that is not found in the normal blood. They believe the phenomenon is due to the presence of incompletely oxidized products of metaholism in the blood. Experiments have shown that the property exists in the serum, not in the red blood cells.

On Sensation to Pain in the Gastric Mucosa.—SCHMIDT (*Mitt. a. d. Grenzgeb. d. Med. u. Chir.*, 1908, xix, 278) has made some observations on man which are of considerable interest in connection with the pain associated with hyperchlorhydria. In three patients on whom gastrotomy was performed he introduced solutions of hydrochloric acid into the stomach; 20 to 40 c.c. of 0.5 per cent. and 1 per cent. hydrochloric acid were used. They were given the acid about three hours after a