Chronic Experimental Barbiturism. (*Semana Med.* [*Buenos Aires*], *vol. ii, pp.* 304–9, 1936.) *Carratala, R. E.*

Barbital, somnifaine and dial were tested on dogs. A dose which produced within 30 minutes a light narcosis and six hours' sleep was applied daily for two months. The animals showed some nervous symptoms; one developed a tolerance; none died. In a second series the dose was doubled every 6 days. The dogs developed a high tolerance, but died finally after 44 to 57 days. Severe nervous symptoms developed. The autopsy revealed congestion in heart, intestines, kidneys and liver. A. E. MEYER (Chem. Abstr.).

Comparative Actions of Various Narcotics. IV. The Narcotic Effects of Cyclohexane and Benzene. (*Journ. Physiol.* [*U.S.S.R.*], *vol. xx, pp.* 142–5, 1936.) *Brusilovskaya, A. I., and Lazarev, N. V.*

Contrary to the generally accepted view, experiments show that cyclohexane is a more powerful narcotic than benzene.

Ibid. V. Effect of Lengthening or Branching of the Hydrocarbon Chain. (*Pp.* 146–55.)

Toluene is a more powerful narcotic than benzene, whereas xylene is still more powerful than toluene. As to aliphatic hydrocarbons, if the concentration of these substances in the blood is computed on the basis of a true aqueous solution, an increase in the size of the hydrocarbon molecule brings about an increase in the narcotic effect (in harmony with Richardson's rule). Just what effect the forking of hydrocarbon chains has on the narcotic action (i.e., pentane and isopentane) has not been definitely established.

Ibid. VI. Effect of Introducing a Halogen into a Hydrocarbon. (*Pp.* 156–60.)

The powerful narcotic effect shown by chlorinated hydrocarbons, when compared to unsubstituted hydrocarbons, is due almost entirely to the greater solubility of the former in water and in the blood.

The prevailing opinion is that methyl and ethyl alcohols are almost typical narcotics, whereas CH_4 and C_2H_6 are very weak narcotics. Actually just the opposite is the case, if the effective narcotic concentration of these substances in the blood is taken into consideration. The narcotic action of hydrocarbons is greatly diminished on the introduction of the first HO group.

H. COHEN (Chem. Abstr.).

Detoxification of Dendrobine by Sodium Amytal. (*Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med., vol. xxxiv, pp.* 553–4, 1936.) *Chen, K. K., and Rose, C. L.*

Dendrobine, an alkaloid of the Chinese drug chin-shih-hu, causes convulsions of central origin. In the rabbit the subcutaneous minimum lethal dose of dendrobine HCl is 100 mgrm. per kgrm. of body-weight and 17 mgrm. when injected intravenously. The repeated intravenous injection of sodium amytal in doses of 25 and 12·5 mgrm. per kgrm. antidoted 5 m.l.d. of the alkaloid after definite signs of intoxication had appeared. C. V. BAILEY (Chem. Abstr.).

The Effect of Hypnotics on Picrotoxin: A Contribution to the Problem of the Cold Centre. (*Arch. Exptl. Path. Pharmakol., vol. clxxxi, pp.* 219–32, 1936.) *Rosenthal, F., and Wallach, G.*

Morphine, chloralose, paraldehyde, chloretone, phenobarbital and barbital minimize or prevent the fall in body temperature caused by the subcutaneous injection of picrotoxin (1 mgrm./kgrm.) into rabbits. Chloral hydrate and urethane are ineffective, the latter despite the fact that it inhibits the hyperpyrexia caused by β-tetrahydronaphthylamine. There is no significant difference in the efficacy of cortical and brain-stem hypnotics. The hyperglycæmia caused by picrotoxin is also inhibited by these hypnotics. HARRY EAGLE (Chem. Abstr.).

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