De Langen, C. D. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE TROPICS. [Mededeel v. d. Burg. Geneesk. Dienst, Neth. Indies. 1920, 2. J. A. M. A.]

De Langen here brings down to date his theoretical considerations on the biochemical aspect of life in the tropics, and especially his assumption of the hypersensitivity of the sympathetic nervous system. He found that the cholesterin, other fats and calcium in the blood were below the normal level in European blood, but the sugar content was abnormally high. He ascribes the frequency of convulsions and spasmophilia to this deficiency in calcium. Experience has shown, in one hospital at least, that 3 gm. of calcium given daily to all the patients indiscriminately, seemed to hasten recovery and render it more complete. The uric acid content of the blood was found within normal range, identical with American values and perhaps a little higher than the European. He emphasizes that hypersensitivity of the sympathetic system does not necessarily imply a weakening of the antagonist system. The tonus of the latter may be normal, even although some of its effects may be normal, even although some of its effects may be dwarfed by the stronger sympathetic system. Klinkert's recent publications on eosinophilia are compared with these experiences in the tropics. There is some discordance between his views and the assumption of a tropical sympathicotonia which de Langen has found the rule.

Grant, S. B., and Goldman, A. STUDY OF FORCED RESPIRATION. PRODUCTION OF TETANY. [Am. Jl. of Physiology, June, 1910.]

Forced respiration causes symptoms of tetany to occur in the human subject; these include carpopedal spasm. Chvostek's sign, Trousseau's sign, Erb's sign, and in one instance observed by Grant and Goldman a tetanic convulsion. As a result of the fall of alveolar carbon dioxid tension produced by overventilation, there is a reduction of the carbon dioxid capacity of plasma, a change in the reaction of the urine to the alkaline side, a decreased excretion of ammonia, and a slight increase in the calcium content of the serum. The authors believe that the underlying factor in the tetany of forced respiration is the alkalosis. [J. A. M. A.]

Heinekamp, W. J. R. MODIFICATION OF THE ACTION OF ADRENALIN BY CHLOROFORM. [Jl. of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, November, 1920.]

Experiments proving the fact that chloroform is toxic for heart muscle producing or tending to produce weakening of the organ, are here set forth under chloroform anesthesia, inhibition after administration of adrenalin, is due chiefly to the toxic or paralytic dilatation of the heart, ventricular fibrillation supervening. Adrenalin is contraindicated because of the action of chloroform on the heart wherever chloroform