

it did before this treatment. He thinks the method is worthy of trial in other cases of pituitary lesions. [Leonard J. Kidd, London, England.]

**Rees, M. H.** INFLUENCE OF PITUITARY ON ABSORPTION OF WATER. [Am J. Phys., August, 1920.]

Subcutaneous injections of pituitary extract, according to these experiments, seem to bring about a delay in the absorption of water from the small intestine. This delay does not account entirely for delay in the kidney excretion of water which has been found to result from these injections. The possibility is put forward that the subcutaneous injection of pituitary extract causes vasoconstriction of the vessels of the intestine.

**Berkeley, A. N.** THE PINEAL GLAND. [Med. Rec., January 3, 1920.]

The author here repeats what others have observed that the pineal gland does not atrophy with the oncoming of puberty. It retains throughout life a fairly definite size and any function it may possess in infancy is probably not altogether abrogated in adult years, as Krabbe, Schlesinger, Jelliffe and others have abundantly shown. It is an organ of internal secretion. In a succession of tumors of the pineal glands, the symptoms have been similar. Signs of cerebral tumor in the region of the corpora quadrigemina, concurrent with abnormal growth of the body, early appearance of axillary and pubic hair and remarkable sexual and mental precocity are grouped definitely as the "pineal syndrome" of Marburg and Frankl Hochwart. Preparations of pineal gland, obtained fresh from calves and young cattle, accelerated the somatic growth of kittens, rabbits and guinea pigs to a marked degree. A number of backward children, without organic stigmata, to whom the gland was administered for from three to six months, made an advance in mental age considerably in excess of any previous progress for a like period. [Denied by Goddard, who followed the same children.] Glandular deficiencies often do not come singly, and pineal gland therapy must often be combined with other secretions. A dry skin, cold extremities, obstinate constipation, excessive mental hebetude, irregular and imperfect eruption of the milk teeth and low blood pressure may necessitate the addition of thyroid. When the physical, as well as mental, growth is retarded and there are changes in the size of the sella turcica, or increased carbohydrate tolerance, great obesity or a systolic blood pressure below 50 mm., the anterior or middle lobe of the pituitary, or both, should be added. When the patient is a boy and has minute and soft testes, testis should be given. Sometimes several of these conditions coincide and a pluriglandular formula, all in minute doses, may be tried. The author believes that pineal gland will ultimately become a standard remedy for speeding up the sluggish cerebral chemistry of many backward children. The cases must be selected with reasonable care, perma-