

arises, which produces an irritation of the convulsion centres and the epileptic seizure. It is very possible that the epileptic seizure itself produces the conditions (accumulation of  $\text{CO}_2$  in the blood, change in the blood's reaction) so that the further continuance of the abnormal reaction is impossible and the metabolic processes now proceed in their normal manner.

In this way the formative product of metabolism, which induced the epileptic seizure, is again destroyed by the latter. The formation, as well as the destruction of this substance, is closely connected with the formation of uric acid, in that they are manifested in a diminution and an increase of its excretion, dependent on the seizures.

With such a hypothesis, it is perfectly clear why all the uric acid retained before the seizure is excreted after it. From this point of view the seizures may be regarded as a sort of safety-valve for the epileptic, as soon as the vital reactions of the organism become abnormal under this or other conditions.

He thinks that if uric acid as such played an essential role in the pathology of epilepsy, pharmacological agents which favor its elimination would be of service, but peperazin lysydinum were negative. Lithium carbonate in medium doses (1 gr.) had a favorable effect, but 6 grs. made matters worse, and it had not really increased the uric acid elimination, hence its action consisted only in creating conditions in the epileptic's organism in consequence of which the abnormal reactions causing the seizure could not occur in the same degree as heretofore.

All this leads us to the hypothesis that the cause of the seizures is to be sought neither in the uric acid nor its accumulation in the blood. Very probably the elimination of uric acid is to be regarded as a product and indication of reactions in the epileptic's organism as yet wholly unknown to us, which after reaching a certain intensity are manifested in seizures. Whereas the seizures must be regarded as a means of self-protection of the organism against the abnormal reaction, which otherwise would unavoidably lead to its destruction.