

37° C. and 8° C., the subsequent incubation after addition of sensitized erythrocytes being carried out at the higher temperature.

Upon known syphilitics, the cholesterinized antigen at 8° C. gave the largest number of positive reactions, being followed, in order of efficiency, by the plain antigen at 8° C., cholesterinized antigen at 37° C., acetone-insoluble antigen at 8° C., the same at 37° C., and last the plain antigen at 37° C.

Reactions considered to be false positives were obtained eight times with the cholesterinized antigen at 37° C., five times with the cholesterinized antigen at 8° C., and once with the plain antigen at 8° C., in this series of 500 tests.

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On thyroidectomy in amphibia.

By **E. R. HOSKINS** and **MARGARET MORRIS**. (*By invitation.*)

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With due care to technique it was possible to remove successfully the anlage of the thyroid gland from young growing larvæ of *R. sylvatica* and *Amblystoma punctatum*. The stage best suited for this experiment is that just preceding the beginning of the circulation of the blood. At this time there is no danger of hemorrhage and the chances of regeneration of the removed gland are fewer than with younger larvæ. Chlorotone in salt solution was used to produce anesthesia.

Thyroidectomy was performed in 40 frog larvæ and 50 *Amblystoma* larvæ checked against an equal number of control animals.

A few of the thyroidectomized frog larvæ developed abnormally shaped external gills in some of which no circulation was to be seen. This was evidently due to injury to the vascular system. One animal developed no external gills although it lived and grew through the period during which external gills normally persist.

The operated animals grew less rapidly than the controls. Only one control and one experimental animal survived the normal

period of metamorphosis. Of these the control showed hind legs two months after the operation and the other had not developed legs four months after the operation.

Serial sections were made of eight experimental frog larvæ. The operation was seen to have prevented development of the thyroid gland in all but one case. The hypophysis as compared with that of the controls showed no changes in size or structure to be attributed to loss of the thyroid gland.

Among the *Amblystoma* larvæ none developed abnormal gills. The average growth rate of the experimental larvæ was less than that of the controls, but of the fourteen which were alive, after three months, the largest had had the thyroid removed. In none of the thirteen operated animals that were sectioned was there any regeneration of the thyroid. There were no changes in the hypophysis nor in the pigmentation of the skin following the thyroidectomy during the three months in which the operated larvæ were under observation.

48 (1226)

The effect of decerebration upon the quick component of labyrinthine nystagmus.

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The effects of decerebration have been variously held to show (1) that the central cells of certain reflex mechanisms are located in certain definite regions or levels of the central nervous system, and (2) that certain other reflex mechanisms do not have their central representation in the same regions or in other regions. There has been little consistency in drawing conclusions from the results of decerebration, and frequently other considerations have entered into the matter to such an extent as to outweigh the experimental results of decerebration. In addition, the experimental results as reported by various investigators are not in agreement, and one notices a lack of post-mortem reports as to the extent to which destructive hemorrhages have burrowed downward from the level of transection of the brain stem, or on other conditions