

3. Finally, attention may be called to an action of the thymus gland which was as yet unknown. Exclusive thymus diet produces in *A. opacum* and *A. punctatum* severe attacks of convulsions, similar to those reported in mammals after extirpation of the parathyroids and known as tetany. Larvæ of *A. opacum* are demonstrated in the state of an acute attack.

No definite idea about the relation between the thymus gland and these convulsions could be formed as yet; perhaps the most interesting characteristic of the phenomenon is that it always seems to start when the animals reach a certain stage of development, and the acute attacks cease when the animals are ready for metamorphosis. Metamorphosed animals of about 18 months which have been fed from the fourteenth day after birth exclusively on thymus, are shown; the animals do not exhibit any signs of convulsions.

From this it is certain that the thymus contains a substance which produces convulsions; whether or not it becomes effective seems to depend on certain organs which disappear or develop in the course of the development of the organism. In fact, there are some indications that the parathyroids are involved in this process: for, first, convulsions are not produced by thymus feeding in the frog and toad larvæ, which develop the parathyroids in a very early stage; and second, the acute convulsions in the *A. opacum* and *punctatum* larvæ cease approximately at the time when the parathyroids develop.

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**Demonstration of blood from an extreme case of lipemia in
diabetes mellitus.**

By A. I. RINGER.

[*From the Chemical Laboratory of the Montefiore Home and
Hospital.*]

The blood of a very severe case of diabetes was demonstrated; it contained 2.14 per cent. cholesterol and a total fat content of 14.4 per cent.