In this attempt to find a method by which the existence of two antigenic varieties within the group of Bacillus botulinus could be established without the recurrence to the toxin-antitoxin test we found that neither the complement fixation nor the precipitation tests give satisfactory results. The agglutination test, however, offered a ready means for grouping as the results obtained with this test were in accord with those obtained by toxin-antitoxin tests. The agglutination test has permitted us to classify also such strains of Bacillus botulinus which have lost their toxicity under the conditions of test tube cultivation. As a control in all the above experiments we included a strain of Bacillus sporogenes and found that contrary to the statement in the literature all but one of the strains obtained by us from different laboratories in this country are free from Bacillus sporogenes contamination as judged by the above serologic tests.

12 (1750)

The antiscorbutic potency of strawberries.

By CLARENCE A. SMITH, OLAF BERGEIM, and PHILIP B. HAWK.

[From the Laboratory of Physiological Chemistry of Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.]

Several guinea pigs were fed a diet of oats, milk, and hay until they were decidedly scorbutic. They were then given expressed strawberry juice, either fresh juice or juice previously boiled for five minutes. The symptoms of scurvy were overcome within seven days by the administration of ten c.c. per day of either boiled or unboiled juice. Strawberries, therefore, appear to be relatively rich in water-soluble C, and their content of this vitamine is not seriously decreased by five minutes boiling.

13 (1760)

A modified anaphylactic reaction induced by X-rays.

By R. G. HUSSEY (by invitation).

[From the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York City.]

The following observations are of interest in connection with a theoretical consideration of the mechanism of classical serum anaphylaxis.