

3 (341)

The behavior of alanin in metabolism.By **A. I. RINGER** and **GRAHAM LUSK**.

[From the Physiological Laboratory of the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College.]

Injection of 20 grams of *i*-alanin in a completely phlorhizinized dog resulted in the elimination of "extra sugar" in the urine to an amount equalling 18.8 grams, or 93 per cent. of that theoretically possible. Although *i*-alanin is almost completely convertible into dextrose, preliminary respiration experiments indicate that it does not spare fat metabolism as effectually as does dextrose itself. This may be due to heat loss in the breaking down of alanin into simpler molecules (formic aldehyde?) and heat absorption in its construction into dextrose. A similar reasoning would serve to explain Rubner's "specific dynamic action" of protein.

4 (342)

An important source of error in Heller's test for urinary protein.By **WILLIAM WEINBERGER**. (By invitation.)

[From the Laboratory of Biological Chemistry of Columbia University, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.]

Heller's test for urinary protein is a fairly reliable one if care is taken in its application, but several urinary protein constituents give uncertain results with it. Thus, mucin fails to yield true precipitation — the "ring" is more or less opalescent and disappears on mixing. With nucleoalbumin the ring is not quite typical and is indistinct in undiluted urine. On the other hand various misleading factors, such as resinous acids, must be taken into account. Resinous acids may be ignored, however, if such products as *Balsamum Copaivæ*, or Santal Oil, have not been administered, or if the specific HCl test for resinous acids shows their absence. The turbidity formed with resinous acids dissolves on warming. The acids themselves may be removed by extraction with ether. In concentrated urine, as is well known, a uric acid ring may appear just above the line of junction of the urine and acid, and urea