ing and reading seem rather terrifying to the conservative mind; if people wishing to express ideas in print became accustomed to leaning on these typographical crutches, they would not bother to learn how to write, and those who looked at nothing but current publications would forget how to read. Literary English might then become a dead language.

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The Use as Test Material of Inbred Strains of Mice Having High Frequencies of Audiogenic Seizures

As a result of Hall's discovery of a strain of mice which showed a high and predictable frequency of audiogenic seizures, the idea has been advanced by several workers that these animals may be used as convenient test material for analyzing the results of a large number of psychological, pharmacological, hormonal, and nutritional factors which may affect the nervous system.

At a recent informal conference of workers on audiogenic seizures at the Jackson Laboratory it was suggested that it would be desirable to summarize the basic information necessary for new workers in the field, so that results comparable to those of other workers may be obtained, and so that ineffective techniques may be avoided. It was also agreed that the Division of Behavior Studies at the Jackson Laboratory would, for the present, act as a center for exchange of information between workers, with the cooperation of C. S. Hall of Western Reserve University, and Benson Ginsburg of the University of Chicago.

Three essential factors concerning seizures in mice need to be kept in mind:

1. The bell-tub technique of Hall appears to be adequate to elicit the phenomenon. A 2½-in. doorbell run by two or three No. 6 dry cells or a bell transformer, hung over the edge of an ordinary 14-gal. galvanized wash-tub is rung for 2 min. If seizures occur, they usually appear in less than 60 sec. It has been conventional to record at least the following variable aspects of behavior: a) preconvulsive behavior, b) latency of convulsion, c) type of convulsion, d) survival or nonsurvival.

2. It has been conventional to test animals at 30 days of age (which appears to be close to the time of maximum frequency in the dba[2] strains), and to repeat tests on survivors daily thereafter for a total of four or five tests. In the dba strains the phenomenon disappears almost entirely after 45 days of age.

3. Subline differences appear to be extremely important. Care should be taken that the animals used come from an inbred stock, tracing back through a single line of brother-sister mating as pedigreed by known workers. At the present time the following strains are known to produce high frequencies: Dilute Brown subline 1 (dba[1]) (Little, Murray, Fekete, Hall), and Dilute Brown subline 2 (dba) (Little, Woolley, Vicari). The C57 Black strains, subline 6 (Little, Fekete, Hall), and subline 10 (Little, Russell, Scott), are known to give very low frequencies of seizures. All these strains are carried at the Jackson Laboratory at the present time and can be made available to workers at other institutions.

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