AIMS AND OBJECTS

From what has been said above it appears that lipids form an important constituent of brain in subserving its diverse control and integrating functions. It is expected therefore that derangements in the lipid status of brain may lead to alteration in such functions. Study of brain lipids has thus a special significance under conditions wherever a derangement in lipid metabolism is suspected. Although much is known about brain lipids in humans as well as in experimental animals under normal conditions very little information is available regarding brain lipids under conditions where there is a generalised disturbance in lipid metabolism in the body. In atherosclerosis a general disturbance in body lipid metabolism has been observed resulting in widespread deposition of lipid material at a number of abnormal sites or organs. Whether brain is involved in this condition of general disturbance of lipid metabolism
is not known but the neurological symptoms namely apathy, lack of concentration, forgetfulness etc., which are invariably associated with the atherosclerotics in the early phase points to such a possibility. The object of the present thesis work had been to probe into this aspect of the problem in order to assess whether there is any significant alteration in brain lipid content under the above circumstances and also to know to what extent the homeostatic mechanism controlling the lipid metabolism play a part in the event.