On the Mechanism of Gliosis in Acquired Epilepsy. (*Amer. Journ. of Insanity, April*, 1908.) *Southard, E. E.*

As summarised by the author, the theory of epilepsy expounded in this paper is founded mainly upon structural considerations. The histological data have been interpreted largely from a functional point of view. The theory lays claim to some originality in two directions—in setting forth, namely, the properties of a typical epileptogenic focus in the cerebral cortex, and the nature of that change in cortical tissue which favours epileptic discharges. The characteristic feature of a typical prime focus is described as the separation of a normal cell-group from its normal control by other cell-groups, and the impact upon the receptive surfaces of these normal cells of a steady, intimate, abnormal pressure, both segregation and compression effected by neuroglia overgrowth. That feature of cortical tissue which favours the spread of epileptic discharges is described as due to a simplification of cell arrangements, arising in the destruction of controlling elements, with maintenance of motor elements. In the production of both prime focus and the abnormal tissue which permits uncontrolled discharge the neuroglia tissue plays a characteristic part, exerting an active continued pressure in the first instance, and readily permitting lateral discharges and the activation of great groups of motor cells in the second instance.

In the former case, we see a fresh example of the irritative property of heightened tension, only here exhibited quite in miniature. In the latter instance, we are dealing with conditions of still greater theoretical interest, approximating, though with diverse outcome, the loss ot insulation seen in foci of disseminated sclerosis. The findings suggest the widely different effects upon nervous tissues of active and of quiescent gliosis.

The article, which is of great interest and of considerable length, contains several detailed clinical cases and a review of the literature bearing on the subject, and is illustrated by numerous photographic plates of microscopic sections of brain tissue. A. W. Wilcox.

On the Study of Psycho-Glandular Reports [*Introduction a l'Étude des Rapports Psycho-Glandulaires*]. (*Rev. de Psychiat., Sept.*, 1908.) *Lavastine, L.*

Since the time of Buchard the importance of intoxication, especially auto-intoxication, has been fully recognised, and many have been the attempts to elucidate the *rôle* played by them in mental diseases. Owing to the frequent existence of pathological changes in the ductless glands many opinions have been expressed that the mental symptoms which were noted were due to the lesions in these organs or *vice-versâ*, and a large amount of conflicting evidence is the result.

The author, in the above paper, discusses this matter, and he urges the importance of considering the subject from each point of view.

From observation one must first consider whether the case is a clinical entity and whether the ill-effects are due to an internal secretion, either increased, diminished, or vicious, or whether more than one organ is at fault. These results should be confirmed by experimenta-

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