

unfortunately the multiplicity of the latter prevent us from allotting to each its due share.

The writer is careful to state that he makes no pretensions to originality in his observations. In correlating apoplexies, pneumonias, and other visceral changes similar to those he has described with cerebral disorders, he desires to point out the close connection which unites them to the ordinary pathogeny of lesions of the splanchnic cavities of cerebral origin; whilst our predecessors appeared to see in them chiefly the results of mechanical compression during the crisis. It is well known that in animals these pulmonary ecchymoses and apoplexies occur even when the chest has been opened; they therefore cannot be solely the result of the convulsion, as Delasiauve has said.

2. *German Retrospect.*

BY W. W. IRELAND, M.D.

Hemiopic Hallucinations.

Dr. A. Pick (in the "Jahrbuch für Psychiatrie," ii., 1, quoted in the "Centralblatt," 1 April, 1881) records the hallucinations of a man of 28, afflicted with delusions of persecution and grandiose ideas. He imagined that he heard reproaches poured into his ear. A lady followed him with her endearments. He was electrified, magnetised; he saw shapes and visions, such as a burning house. He often heard a voice on the right side. Sometimes it disappeared as he put his finger into the ear, but then it passed to the left ear. He had hallucinations of sight, which affected only the right eye. They appeared generally in the evening, when his eyes were shut, but sometimes after awakening. These hallucinations disappeared when he opened his eyes. He often saw portions of figures, heads, or feet, generally the upper part of men, or objects which were sharply defined off against a dark ground. There was found to be a broad spot in the right eye, where sight was deficient, without any positive lesion. Dr. Pick places the seat of the lesion in the inner side of the left optic tract, behind the chiasma of the optic nerve. He observes that if the lesion had been nearer the cerebrum the defect of vision would have affected both eyes.

Nerve-Stretching in Facial Neuralgia.

Dr. Julius Janny ("Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde, 15 Februar, 1881) records the case of a woman forty-four years of age, the wife of a day labourer, who suffered for two years from tic douloureux of the right side of the head. Thinking that the pains proceeded from the irritation of the teeth, she got them all extracted, but they became worse instead of better; and at last the neuralgia came on in such fearful paroxysms that her life became unendurable. It was found

that the painful points were at the issue of the supra-orbital, frontal, infra-orbital, and inferior alveolar nerves. On the 7th of September, 1880, the operation of stretching was performed on the supra-orbital and frontal nerves, and four days later it was performed in the infra-orbital and mental nerves. The incisions, treated in the antiseptic method, healed by the first intention, and the pain ceased altogether. On the 21st of the same month the patient was dismissed quite cured. The operator stretched the nerve with pincers, the extremities of which were covered with indiarubber.

Examination of a Spinal Cord after Nerve-Stretching.

Dr. Westphal has communicated to the "Berlin Klinische Wochenschrift" (1881, No. 8) the result of the examination of the spinal cord of a man who had died after the operation of nerve-stretching. The patient had suffered from considerable ataxia of the lower extremities, diminished normal sensibility, with severe pains in the lower limbs, all of which symptoms were well nigh wholly removed by the operation of nerve-stretching, which was performed by Dr. Langenbech; but as the same symptoms appeared in a more moderate degree in the arms, it was resolved, three months later, to perform the same operation upon the brachial nerves. The patient died from an epileptic fit while under chloroform. Langenbech sent the spinal cord to Westphal, but after a minute and careful examination, no alteration indicating disease could be found. Westphal asks, Are there many such cases, where the disease exists in the nerves while the disease of the posterior columns of the cords is a later condition? He affirms that in all cases which have come to dissection, and where the cause has been carefully examined, degeneration of the posterior columns have been found. Westphal refers to the case published by Doctors Plaxton and Bevan Lewis in the "Journal of Mental Science," July, 1878, p. 274, in which there was a progressive locomotor ataxia lasting for five years, at the end of which insanity suddenly supervened. He complains that in this case, as in that of Langenbech, the spinal symptoms are given in too little detail, so that one cannot form a correct judgment upon them. Langenbech is inclined to view his case as one where the peripheral nerves were alone affected, but where, perhaps, the spinal cord might in time be involved. Westphal does not think that we should abstain from nerve-stretching, even when it appears from all the symptoms that there is organic disease of the cord.

Mental Disorder caused by Alternation of Heat and Cold.

Dr. Reich (quoted in "Centralblatt für Nervenheilkunde," No. 6, 1881) tells us of four boys, from six to ten years of age, who were exposed in a sledge to cold of from sixteen to twenty-two degrees below zero; and being suddenly introduced into a room heated by a stove, they showed symptoms of mental derangement, lasting for several hours. There were maniacal excitement, delirium, and hallu-

cinations. This condition passed off with a long sleep, and on awakening they retained no recollection of the mental disorder. It is supposed to have been caused by an alteration in the cerebral circulation induced by the rapid change from cold to heat.

Self-Extirpation of the Tongue.

Dr. E. Flügge ("Archiv," XI. Band, 1 Heft) gives an account of a married woman, forty-five years of age, who, at the cessation of the catamenia, became restless and suicidal, finally passing into a maniacal condition, with exaltation of the sexual feelings, and visions of a religious and erotic character, such as "She was going to have a son to God." On being brought into the asylum at Uckerunde, she appeared to be a little emaciated woman. She was put into a cell, naked, and was very violent for two days. On the attendant returning, after a short absence, a bloody lump was seen on the floor. On examination it was found to be the tongue, which she had entirely torn away with her hands alone. No more than a wine glass of blood came from the mouth, though it is likely she swallowed some. In stuttering voice, which was with difficulty understood, she said that a voice from God had called upon her, either to kill herself or tear out a limb, and that the devil had sitten upon her tongue, on which account she had torn it away. She could not recollect how she did it. Dr. Flügge is inclined to think that she pushed her fingers into the mouth down to the epiglottis, ran the nails into the muscular tissue, and then, with a powerful jerk, tore away the tongue from all its connections. Though the tongue was entirely carried away with some of the glosso-epiglottidean ligaments, the woman was from the beginning able to speak—at first, both indistinctly and with pain, but in the course of three months with a distinctness truly wonderful under the circumstances. Dr. Flügge describes the speech as monotonous, wanting in modulation, but capable of being understood, even by those not accustomed to hear her. In three months the wound had entirely healed, the excitement and delusions ceased, and she seemed in the fair way of recovery. He quotes, from Kussmaul, Twisloten, and Zacchias, instances of people who had lost, greater or less, portions of the tongue, and who retained the power of speaking in a manner which could be at least understood.

Lyell and Huxley examined a man in whom the tongue was cut out on account of cancer, and in six months he could make himself understood, though he was unable to pronounce the sounds of D, T, and L.

Paget found similar results in six cases, where the tongue was removed.

Dr. Flügge believes that in his patient the tongue was more completely extirpated than in any previously described. He observes that the pronunciation of D, T, L, S, and N is injured at the beginning and end of words; whilst L is pronounced H; T, and D are pro-

nounced with the greatest distinctness. The utterance of the labials and gutturals is unaffected. The most difficult words to pronounce are those where there are several linguals, or several consonants, following one another.

Hyoscyamine in Mania and Epilepsy.

Dr. Reinhard ("Archiv," XI. Band, 2 Heft), after experimenting in the asylum of Dalldorf upon the effects of hyoscyamine for insane and epileptic patients, has arrived at the following conclusions:—

1. That this drug has in many cases the effect of tranquillising and shortening the duration of mania and delirium. It seems to be most successful where the excitement accompanies disturbed menstruation.

2. Its influence upon epilepsy is, occasionally, so far favourable that it diminishes the number and intensity of the attacks. Its favourable influence may be expected where the pulse is small and jerking.

3. In epilepsy it occasionally diminishes the number and violence of the fits.

4. Affections of the vessels, heart, and lungs are contra-indications. On account of its effects on the heart and general nutrition, hyoscyamine cannot be used continuously for a long time. The principal danger lies in the drug paralysing the heart.

5. As a general rule, we can only assign a moderate value to the therapeutic effects of hyoscyamine.

3. *American and Colonial Retrospect.*

By D. HACK TUKE, M.D.

The Alienist and Neurologist. Edited by Dr. HUGHES, Vols. I. and II.

We have already taken occasion to refer to this new Journal of medical psychology with approval, and will now briefly indicate some of the most important matter contained in the volumes now published. The opinions of an esteemed and experienced superintendent, Dr. Curwen, on the construction and organization of asylums, are given in an article in which he takes as his text the propositions issued some years ago by the Association of Superintendents of American Hospitals for the Insane. They may be summarised as follows:—"That every lunatic hospital should be in the country; the large States being divided into geographical districts, of such size that a hospital, situated at or near the centre of the district, will be practically accessible to all the people living within its boundaries. That no hospital should have less than 50 acres of land devoted to gardens and pleasure grounds, and every State Hospital for 200 patients, at least 100 acres. That means should be provided to raise 10,000 gallons of water daily to reservoirs that will supply the highest parts of the building. That no hospital should be built without the plan having been first sub-