

*On Changes in the Bones in General Paralysis [Ueber Knochenveränderungen bei progressiver Paralyse]. (Cbl. für Nervenheilkunde u. Psychiat., Sept. 15th, 1906.) Reichardt.*

Dr. Reichardt had occasion to observe general paralytics who suffered from spontaneous fractures. The bones were found to be light and porous. He does not think that this condition is owing to marasmus, or lues, or general weakness, but to be the result of the affection of the brain and spinal cord in general paralysis. There is no doubt, he observes, that changes in the condition of the bones attend some nervous diseases—for example, in hemiatrophia facialis progressiva, and in the deficient growth of the limbs in porencephaly, and the occurrence of spontaneous fractures in uncomplicated tabes and syringomyelia. The question may be asked what part of the nervous centre may be held to influence the growth or diseases of the bones. Reichardt is disposed to localise this function in the medulla oblongata. He entirely dissents from Gudden's remark that fractures in asylums are owing to external violence; no doubt with greater care their numbers may be lessened, but with such alterations in the structures of the bones spontaneous fractures will occur. This fragile condition is not common in the bones of cranium. The author combats the assertion that general paralytics have unusually heavy brains and thick skulls, but he has observed that where there are persistent frontal sutures and Wormian bones there are often unusually heavy skulls, owing to osteosclerosis, or to thickening with normal specific weight. He has observed general paralysis in two microcephales. He denies the assertion that, in atrophy of the brain, there is an accommodative concentric thickening of the cranial vault. At the end of his article, he prints a letter from Professor Schmidt, of Strasburg, who holds that in thickening of the skull it is impossible to distinguish whether this was owing to a natural or diseased process.

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*On Artificial Atrophy of the Brain and Skull [Experimentell erzeugte Gehirn-Atrophie und damit verbundene Schädel-Atrophie]. (Cbl. für Nervenheilkunde u. Psychiat., Aug., 1906.) D'Abundo.*

Professor G. d'Abundo, Director of the Clinique for Nervous and Mental Diseases in the University of Catania, published, in 1901, some researches on atrophy of the brain. Since then, he has been making experiments upon new-born dogs and cats, in which he practised openings of the skull. He found that, when these lesions extended to the white matter, the growth of the brain as well as that of the skull was diminished. With lesions on one side, there was hemiatrophy, though the growth of the whole brain was affected. The result of the experiment induces him to believe that the skull ceases to grow after the brain is affected in infantile life, and not, as some people have imagined, that the deficient growth of the skull hinders the increase of the brain.

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