

*The Parasensory Zones [Die Parasensorischen Zonen].* (*Psych. Neurol. Wochens.*, No. 13, March 31, 1928.) *v. Economo, C.*

Immediately adjoining the sensory cortical areas there is a narrow band of cortex characterized by the presence of large pyramidal cells, some of which reach the size of giant-cells. This band has been named the "parasensory zone." It is best seen round the striated visual area, but is also found bounding the auditory cortex and the sensory area in the ascending parietal convolution. The presence of large pyramids probably indicates the origin of efferent fibres, forming either association tracts or else motor paths, possibly for reflex movements of attention. A. WALK.

*The Cortico-thalamic Tracts in Certain Small Mammalia [Les voies cortico-thalamiques chez quelques petits mammifères].* (*Fourn. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, July, 1927.) *Hollander, Prof. Dr., and Ghisoland, Mlle. Simone.*

In this paper the authors describe their investigation of the cortico-thalamic tracts of the rat, mouse, guinea-pig and hedgehog. As a result of their studies they hold out the hope that before long the localization of thalamic function may be completed. The article is illustrated by drawings of sections prepared by the Weigert-Pal-Kultschitsky method.

R. S. GIBSON.

*The History of the Experimental Study of the Knee-Jerk.* (*Amer. Journ. of Psych.*, January, 1928.) *Fearing, F.*

The author opens his paper with the reflection that perhaps no other reflex presents so varied a history as does the knee-jerk. He proceeds to develop his thesis along these historical lines, with a chronological list of the early investigators. Reference is made to the galvanometric technique with photographic record of the thread deflections, and to the important problem of inhibition, involving the "drainage" hypothesis of McDougall.

Some 60 references are appended as foot-notes to the article.

WM. MCWILLIAM.

*Contribution to the Study of Cerebral Softening [Contribution à l'étude du ramollissement cérébral].* (*Fourn. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, November, 1927.) *Foix, C., and Ley, J.*

The full title of this long paper is "The study of cerebral softening from the point of view of its frequency, its situation, and the anatomical state of the arteries in the necrotic area." In 124 cases of serious cerebral lesion the authors found 100 cases of softening (80.65%) and 24 of hæmorrhage. In 69 cases the softening occurred in the Sylvian area, in 19 in the area supplied by the posterior cerebral artery, and in 12 in that of the anterior cerebral artery.

In 21.5% of cases the affected artery was totally, and in 25% almost

totally occluded, and in 53.5% there was some toxæmia or reflex nervous influences.

The authors conclude that softening may occur suddenly and is the result of arteritis, acute or chronic, together with one of the following factors: Vascular spasm, transient cardio-arterial insufficiency or toxæmia. The paper closes with some notes on the prevention and treatment of softening and with special details of three cases in which the vessels were only slightly sclerosed.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*The Parathyroids.* (*Psychol. Bull.*, vol. xxv, No. 1, January, 1928.)  
Rockwell, J. G.

A short review of the literature giving a bibliography of 124 papers dating from 1892 to 1927.

A. WOHLGEMUTH.

*Histo-chemical Study of the Senile Plaques of Redlich-Fischer* [*Étude histo-chimique des plaques séniles.*] (*Journ. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, November, 1927.) Divry, P.

The author begins by some notes on the opinions held by various workers on senile plaques since their first description and proceeds to develop his own opinion that these bodies are local deposits of hyaline amyloid material in the cerebral cortex. The paper is illustrated by eight micro-photographs.

W. D. CHAMBERS.

*Perimetry* [*La périmétrie quantitative*]. (*Journ. de Neur. et Psychiat.*, December, 1927.) Gaudenart, Dr.

Dr. Gaudenart calls attention to the importance of the use of the perimeter in neurology, and emphasizes the fact that its utility consists not merely in the measuring of the extent of the fields of vision, but also in the determination of variation in the visual acuity at different points in these fields. The instruments of Bjerrum and Clifford Walker are described, and also the technique of the examination and the interpretation of the results.

R. S. GIBSON.

*Accidental Effects of Lumbar Puncture, with their Treatment* [*Les accidents de la ponction lombaire et leur traitement*]. (*Prat. Méd. Franç.*, May, 1927.) Targowla, R., et Lamache, A.

The authors state that ill-effects follow lumbar puncture in a fairly high proportion of cases. These ill-effects are grouped under four headings, and illustrated by cases from the authors' own experience with notes on the appropriate treatment of each condition. The groups are: Effects due to hypotension of the cerebro-spinal fluid after puncture; effects due to hypertension shortly after puncture, the cerebro-spinal fluid being secreted in increasing quantities; cases in which symptoms of meningism appear; and cases where the operation is followed by collapse.

R. S. GIBSON.