

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Our Library Table

Oeuvres Complètes de J. M. Charcot. Tome IX. Paris: Aux Bureaux du *Progrès Medical*. Lecrosnier et Babé. 1890. – This, the ninth volume of Professor Charcot's writings, which are being so faithfully collected under the careful editorship of his former pupil, M. Bourneville, contains some of his earliest as well as his most recent contributions to neurology. For side by side with the memoir upon cerebral haemorrhage, written in conjunction with M. Ch. Bouchard, in which the invariable presence and the etiological importance of miliary aneurysm in such cases were first pointed out, we find papers upon hypnotism and hysteria, to which Professor Charcot has devoted so much thought and attention of late years. The volume, too, contains a reproduction of his observations upon metalloscopy and metallotherapy made in 1877. We are not quite so much inclined as is the able editor to regard these curious

records as of the first importance, and it is certainly remarkable how transient was the interest – keen enough at the time – taken in the subject. However, as a matter of history, and as exemplifying the manner in which Professor Charcot investigated this by-path of neurology, the republication of these papers is welcome. Hypnotism is treated at considerable length, and we are glad to find in an appendix the excellent paper of Babinski, which sets forth clearly the views of the Paris school on this subject, as opposed to that of Nancy. The reader should peruse M. Babinski's essay first, before committing himself to the study of the experiments detailed in M. Charcot's memoir. The place of static electricity in therapeutics, and its application especially to the treatment of hysteria, form the final part of the volume.

Reference

Lancet, April 4, 1891, 778.

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