

carotids in suitable cases produces fits from cerebral anæmia, (3) that post-mortem arterio-sclerosis is found in nearly all cases of senile epilepsy. Experiments on the condition of the circulation in epilepsy and epileptic fits are reviewed, and found contradictory. The effects of complete experimental cerebral anæmia and also of passive congestion of the brain are described, and found to be similar in the two cases. The effect of partial anæmia from embolus or thrombosis is fully looked at. As an illustration, the Sylvian artery is taken, and variations of the clinical picture are shown to depend on the exact position of the lesion and the rapidity of its production. After summarising the forms of senile epilepsy, the different varieties of modified epileptiform attacks found in senile epilepsy of a cardio-vascular character are described. Some notes on treatment finish the paper, which call for no remark.

W. J. PENFOLD.

A Dancing Disease of Madagascar. (Brit. Med. Journ., Feb. 17th, 1900.)

Attention is drawn to Lasnet's notes on the Sakalavas or West Coast Malagasies published in the *Annales d'Hygiène et de Médecine Coloniales*, which include the description of a curious epidemic nervous affection met with amongst the natives. It begins suddenly, and consists of incessant shaking of the body, accompanied by irregular movements, incoherent speech, and delirium; the patients indulge in wild bacchanalian dances, finally falling to the ground panting and foaming at the mouth. Some clamber up the rocks, while others pass whole days in pools or rivers, declaring that they are forced to remain there by spirits. They present meanwhile a most wild appearance, and, if not dancing, walk straight before them with head erect and eyes constantly rolling. It is very communicable.

It seems to closely resemble the pandemic chorea of the Middle Ages described by Hecker (*Epidemics of the Middle Ages*), the tarantism of Italy, and other hysterical epidemics which have been observed at various times and in various countries, to which the *British Medical Journal* recalls attention.

H. J. MACEVOY.

Auto-mutilation supervening under the Influence of Dreams in a Hystero-epileptic [Auto-mutilation survenant sous l'influence de rêves chez un hystéro-épileptique]. (Rev. de l'Hyp., March, 1900.)
Bérillon, E.

The patient was a man, aged 31, subject for some years to impulsive attacks occurring in the morning, a few minutes after waking. With cries of fear, he would make unconscious attempts at suicide, resulting in severe self-mutilation; on different occasions, he wounded his skull with a hatchet, destroyed the sight of one eye with a knife, pulled out seven teeth with pincers, bit his tongue severely by holding it between his teeth and punching his lower jaw upwards, etc. A feeling of satisfaction follows these acts. There is no loss of consciousness during the attacks, no foaming at the mouth, no incontinence of urine. They reproduce a dream in which he believes he is accomplishing these

acts. Under hypnotic treatment he got well; the dreams being inhibited. He has become sociable, is happy, and can work.

H. J. MACEVOY.

Alterations of the Personality under the Influence of Morphine [*Altérations de la personnalité sous l'influence du morphinisme*]. (*Rev. d'Hyp.*, April, 1900.) *Bérillon*.

The case is described of a young woman who presented an absolutely different personality according to whether or no she was in a state of morphinomania. At the age of twenty-three, while on board a ship, she first became addicted to morphia, and for the next few years she was alternately well and morphinomaniac, presenting with each phase a characteristic and markedly different personality. While taking morphia she was sedentary, calculating, most careful of her affairs, endowed with a wonderful memory, logically minded, and she showed an absence of affection. When cured of her morphia habit, on the contrary, she ceased to care about her affairs, was liberal, extravagant, heedless of the future; her affective side was in evidence. It would almost seem as if in this case morphia produced an inhibition of the affective centres, permitting of a preponderating action on the part of the intellectual faculties.

H. J. MACEVOY.

A Case of Prolonged Sleep lasting Seven Months with Tumour of the Pituitary Body [*Sur un cas de sommeil prolongé pendant sept mois par tumeur de hypophyse*]. (*Nouv. Icon. de la Salp.*, March, April, 1900.) *Soca, F.*

A girl, aged 18 years, of apparently healthy antecedents, was taken suddenly ill, about three weeks before admission into the Caridad Hospital, Montevideo, with loss of consciousness (? character of attack), following upon which her sight became weak, her walk hesitating, and she complained of severe headache. She was found in hospital to have double optic atrophy, and had attacks of vomiting which disappeared after five days. But the most interesting feature was the rapid onset of obstinate sleep. She could be awakened periodically for food, for attention to the bowels, and could be roused from sleep for examination or conversation; but, left to herself, she at once relapsed into deep sleep, and this went on for seven months. There were no definite localising signs, but the patient became generally weaker bodily and mentally; she was occasionally dirty, and finally died. She had no fits.

At the autopsy, a dark red very soft sarcoma, of the size of a Tangerine orange, was found covering the sella turcica and optic chiasma, adherent to the brain on the one hand and to the dura mater on the other. The optic nerves at their origin, the chiasma, the anterior part of the optic tracts, were lost in the tumour. The third and fourth nerves, though overlapped by it, seemed to be intact.

Reviewing the literature of the subject, and discussing the question of the varieties of pathological sleep, the author classes this case with those of Gayet and Wernicke. In his case, as in theirs, there was