layer of the thickness of from 1 to 2 millimetres, owing to the distension of the lateral ventricles. The cerebellum was replaced by a sac filled with fluid. In the tissue of the cerebrum there was found an increase of the neuroglia, with a scarcity of nerve-cells, and patches of sclerosis. The bulb and spinal cord were of small size. The descriptions are illustrated by two pages of lithographs. W. W. IRELAND.

On Some Forms of Alteration of the Nerve-cell in Acute Compressional Psychoses [*Su alcune forme di alterazione della cellula nervosa nelle psicosi acute compressionali*]. (*Riv. di pat. nerv. e ment., Sept.*, 1900.) *Camia, M.*

This paper gives the results of the examination of four cases. The cases were very similar, and all died within a few days of admission into the asylum, with symptoms of marked motor agitation, more or less incoherence, sitiophobia, collapse, etc. The author points out that from the examination, both macro- and microscopic, no organic lesion is found sufficient to account for death, and this points either to an intoxication or to a general infection as the cause. The lesions in the central nervous system can be divided into three types: 1. Diminution of the chromatic substance, with disintegration and diffusion in the cell protoplasm. This is very similar to the type described by Nissl as "rarefaction of the protoplasm." 2. The cell, in addition to this change, has the nucleus more or less intensely coloured and shrunken—"homogeneity with atrophy." 3. Central chromatolysis, swelling of the cell body, disappearance of the processes, displacement of the nucleus towards the periphery of the cell, and reniform outline of nucleus. This is very similar to the changes which follow cutting across of the nerve-cylinder process. J. R. GILMOUR.

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7. Treatment of Insanity.

Hedonal, a New Soporific. (*Allgem. Zeits. f. Psychiat, B. lvii, H.* 6, 1900, *etc.*) *Hans Haberkant and others.*

Hedonal is a derivative of urethane, or rather a member of the group of the urethanes by the substitution of an amylic radical for the ethyl grouping in urethane proper; it was discovered by Dreser in 1899. It is a white crystalline powder of faint menthol-like taste and odour, readily soluble in alcohol, but only slightly so in water; the average dose is 15—45 grains, administered in spirituous solution or in cachet, or in suspension as a powder. Dr. Haberkant's experience, in various forms of psychosis, recognises the drug as a valuable soporific, reliable and prompt *even in cases of marked excitement, provided the dose is sufficient, viz.*, 2—4 *gm.* (30—60 *grains*). In these doses it can replace chloral hydrate and sulphonal, though dose for dose these latter are more powerful. After-effects and harmful by-effects are less likely to follow with hedonal. A feature in the action of hedonal is the polyuria which it often produces; the urine is not otherwise changed and the increased flow is without bad effect (it does not disturb sleep) and may, on occasion, as in a case of mental disease with morbus cordis,