Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Anatomy and Physiology.

A New Type of Tonic Reflex [*Un nuevo tipo de reflejos tónicos ; el fenómeno de la post-contracción o contracción catatónica de Kohnstamm*]. (*Arch. de Neurobiol., vol. xii, Sept.–Oct.*, 1932.) *Villarta, M. C., and Culebras, A.*

This is a discussion of the phenomenon first described by Kohnstamm and later by Salmon. Following a vigorous contraction to which is opposed a resistance there appears, after a short latent period, a second involuntary contraction of a slow and sustained character. This reflex is originated by the excitation of the proprioceptive terminations in the muscle during its voluntary contraction. These reflexes are greatly increased in parkinsonianism. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

Conditioned Responses in Animals other than Dogs. (*Psychol. Bulletin, vol. xxx, April*, 1933.) *Razran, G. H. S.*

The data offer a phylogenetic comparison of the characteristics of conditioning in various organisms and a check upon the generalizations current in the literature. Typical conditioning has been clearly demonstrated in organisms as low as infusoria. There is no evidence that the speed of conditioning becomes consistently greater with the ascent of the organism in the evolutionary scale. Prior to its final constant establishment a C–R passes through a transitional period of instability. C–Rs may become so firmly established that more than 100 non-reinforced applications are necessary for their disappearance. There is no convincing evidence that the speed of unconditioning is related to the phylogenetic position of the organism. C–Rs have been found to be retained over periods of 2–11 months of no experimentation in lower organisms. The positive evidence for conditioned immunity is suggestive, but not conclusive. M. HAMBLIN SMITH.

The Heel Tap : A Pathological Reflex. (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis., vol. lxxvii, May*, 1933.) *Weingrow, S. M.*

The author describes a new sign for pyramidal tract disease. It consists of fanning, plantar flexion or any other movement of the toes following tapping of the heel. This sign only occurs in advanced involvement of the pyramidal tracts. It appears to be more often associated with the Babinski toe reaction than the Oppenheim, Gordon or Schaefer signs. G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

The Dermatomes in Man. (*Brain, vol. lvi, March*, 1933.) *Foerster, O.*

The dermatomes in man overlap to the same large degree as do those of the monkey. Resection of a single root in man is never followed by loss of sensibility. The tactile dermatomes are larger than the pain and thermal ones. Sometimes the resection of two contiguous roots produces analgesia and thermæsthesia only, but no tactile anæsthesia. The areas of vaso-dilatation produced by electrical stimulation of posterior roots are very similar to the areas of herpetic eruption.
G. W. T. H. FLEMING.