

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