

fright, or other mental disturbances. Krafft-Ebing observes that the cases of amnesia under his observation were accompanied by general anæsthesia. A number of cases have been collected in which, after a fall or blow upon the head, the patient lost the memory of events dating some time back from the accident. These were not accompanied by general anæsthesia. He treats of ecmnesia, by which term is understood some singular cases in which the memory goes backwards to an earlier period of age, all subsequent events being forgotten. For example, in the first one published by Blanc-Fontenille the patient, an hysterical woman thirty-two years old, had her memory carried back to a time when she was seven years of age, when tracheotomy was performed on account of croup. She was said even to reproduce or imagine that she experienced the fresh sensations following the operation. Krafft-Ebing brings his authority to support these statements, which were received with incredulity in Germany. He adds two instances from his own experience. One, a girl of seventeen, came from a family of jugglers (*Jongleur Familie*), and had wandered about a good deal in her childhood. After an hysterical attack she was subjected to hypnotic treatment. On awakening she found herself thrown back into the memory and mental condition of her tenth year, thought she was in Russia, was astonished at the scar of a burn which she had got when twelve years old, and did not know how she had got a ring on her finger, presented to her when she was thirteen. Her writing was said to have the unformed character of her childish days. We have read over the chapter on the surgical treatment of epilepsy in the hope of gaining some light, but the learned physician evidently considers that the indications which could justify opening of the cranium are very rare. He does not even regard the presence of a localised injury as affording a sufficient indication, for he thinks it more probable that the general commotion of the brain would be the exciting cause of the epilepsy. He gives three cases of surgical treatment of epilepsy met with in his clinique, but none of them of a character to encourage repetition. In the last pages of the book the author describes a patient aged nineteen who suffered from hysterical symptoms of a grave character. Extirpation of the left ovary was performed, and this was followed by improvement, but the symptoms returned. Extirpation of the remaining ovary, which was found to be little diseased, was then tried. This was followed by permanent recovery.

---

*Beiträge zur Physiologie des Centralnervens Systems.* Von MAX VERWORN, M.D., Professor der Physiologie an der Universität, Jena. *Erster Theil: Die sogenannte Hypnose der Thiere (Contributions to the Physiology of the Central Nervous System.* First part: *The So-called Hypnotism of Animals*). Royal 8vo, pp. 92, Jena, 1898. Price 2 marks 50 pf.

It has been for centuries known to the curious that some animals, kept for a few instants in abnormal positions, remain for some time

after in a passive and motionless state. The well-known experiment of the hen lying prostrate upon the table with its beak upon a chalk line is described by Daniel Schwenter, Professor in the University of Altdorf, in his *Delicia Physico-mathematica*, Nuremberg, 1636; and ten years later Father Athanasius Kircher again gave an account of the experiment, with a woodcut, which is reproduced in Verworn's book. The author gives in detail a number of experiments made to study this condition upon birds, guinea-pigs, serpents, and frogs. His elaborate experiments are illustrated by eighteen engravings in the text. The author reviews the various explanations which have been made. A favourite one is to attribute the phenomena to "animal hypnotism."

Dr. Verworn observes that to understand this condition one ought to pay attention to the habitual attitude of the animal and the state of its muscular system. The body always has for certain positions a characteristic manner of holding itself, and there are reflexes which serve to bring it back from unusual positions to the normal attitude. This reflex being accomplished, the muscles have a tendency to remain in a state of tonic contraction. When the animal rises up it is not through a relaxation of this muscular tone, but from a renewed impulse to contraction, either spontaneously or arising from an outward stimulus. This characteristic complication of symptoms is observed even when the cerebrum of the animal is removed. In this respect the behaviour of the uninjured and of the brainless animal is quite the same. In the uninjured animal the brain remains passive during the adjustments of the correctional movements of position. There are two components in this condition. The main one is the tonic excitation of the cerebral reflexes regulating position. A subordinate one is the inactivity of the motor spheres of the cortex, which in the end spontaneously give an impulse to make the animal arise. This is accompanied by quickened breathing and quickened heart-beat. This component has no immediate connection with the other, the tonic excitation of the reflex regulating position. It is nothing else than the inhibition of voluntary movements or actions, which we observe every day when we receive a strong impression from the senses.

These phenomena have nothing to do with hypnotism in human beings, which is entirely the product of suggestion. The only thing in common is that in both conditions there are processes of inhibition; but every process of inhibition cannot be described as an hypnotic state. We hope to see more of the Professor's thoughtful and elaborate studies in physiology.

---

*The Collecting of Anthropometric Data.*

Anthropometry is a branch of scientific investigation which, we must acknowledge, has been neglected in this country in the past, and one in which we have allowed ourselves to be outstripped by various