

### Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.\*

#### 1. Anatomy and Physiology.

*On the Spinal Nucleus of the Phrenic Nerve* [*Zur Kenntnis des spinalen Phrenicus kernes*]. (*Acta Psychiat. et Neur.*, vol. ix, p. 253, 1934.) Kristenson, A.

The author examined the spinal cord of a patient on whom unilateral avulsion of the phrenic nerve had been performed 18 months previously. The number and position of ganglion cells in the anterior horn of the third and fourth cervical segments showing pigment atrophy was then determined on serial slides. 63% of cells (just over 1100 could be counted on the whole) were situated in the fourth segment. The cells do not form a continuous column, but small groups, most of which are found in the central and medial parts of the anterior column. In the third segment they are more dorsally situated than in the fourth. S. L. LAST.

*Experimental Research on the Anatomy of the Central Acoustic System.* (*L'Encéphale*, vol. xxix, p. 432, July–Aug., 1934.) Meyjes, F. E. P.

The object of this study is twofold. One aim is to determine the existence of some system of cortical representation of hearing, and the other is to examine the possibilities of centrifugal impulses.

The experiments were carried out on rabbits.

The existence of a centrifugal set of fibres representing the whole auditory cortex and running to the deeper parts of the homolateral internal geniculate body was determined.

The anterior part of the I.G.B. is the most important, and the temporal cortex is represented serially from front to rear of the ganglion.

No centrifugal fibres run to the supragenicular nuclei.

The posterior brachium contains only a few such fibres, which cannot be further traced.

There is some temporofugal outflow towards the corpus Luysii. The conclusions drawn are rather theoretical, and consist essentially of the view that the centrifugal fibres of the auditory system constitute part of a primitive visuo-auditory attention pattern, connected up with basal ganglion function.

W. MCC. HARROWES.

*Newer Results in the Comparative Anatomic Investigation of the Midbrain of Mammals, particularly its Structure in Man.* (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. xxxi, p. 14, Jan., 1935.) Grünthal, E.

The hypothalamus shows an anterior and posterior main group of nuclei which always remain unchanged. The wealth of nuclei in the intervening zone of lower mammals decreases in the ascending series to a considerable degree. The few nuclei which can be found with certainty in the whole mammalian series inclusive of man are characterized by their fat content.

There are three different types of hypothalami in the mammalian series. By far the most complicated is seen in the lower groups as far as and including the rodents. Carnivora, ungulates and lower apes show a somewhat comparable

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