idiots, and sometimes an interruption of this fissure has been observed through one of the frontal convolutions passing directly into the parietal lobe. The fissure in certain of the insane lies nearer to the frontal pole, similar to the position seen in apes, indicating a poor development of the frontal lobes. Normally in the male this fissure is absolutely and relatively longer than in the female, but it may not be of equal length in each hemisphere. In idiots the frontal lobe is very simply marked, especially the lower gyrus, but the parietal lobe shows but few variations. The opercula in idiots do not often completely cover the island of Reil.

From his observations he divides these anomalies into two classes. The one indicates arrests of development to which he assigns the incomplete sulci, which divide the frontal convolutions, and the tendency of the fissure of Rolando to keeps its infantile type—that is, a diminution in its length and the disappearance of the differences pertaining to the sex. The other class embraces those of philogenetic origin, and to this group belong anomalies, as the absence of communication of the calcarine with the parieto-occipital fissure, a rudimentary development of the third frontal lobe, of the anterior branch of the Sylvian fissure, of the fissure of Rolando, and of the convolutions of the island of Reil.

Finally, he says these anomalies, especially those appearing in the second group, predominate in idiots when compared to those observed in the other forms of insanity, and the brains in idiots often present relics of morbid and rudimentary processes dating from fœtal life.

SIDNEY CLARKE.

The Persistence of the Neuro-fibrillæ in General Paralysis [*La persistance des neuro-fibrilles dans la Paralysie Générale*]. (*Bull. Soc. Clin., Feb.*, 1909.) *Dagonet, J.*

By special methods of staining, a fibrillation of the protoplasm of nerve-cells has been demonstrated, which according to some authorities is an artefact. The writer considers them, however, to be paths of conduction common to several cells; the neuro-fibrillæ traverse several cells and their protoplasmic prolongations form an extraordinary rich extra-cellular network. When passing through the nerve-cell, the principal fibrillæ anastomose by secondary fibrillæ or by an extremely fine network. From an investigation of these neuro-fibrillæ, Cajal's silver method being employed, the writer finds that the results of his researches in cases of general paralysis are not in agreement with other workers. The neuro-fibrillæ were not thickened save where they joined together, nor was their coloration more intense, and they were continuous. They persisted in badly damaged cells with the exception of the pyramidal cells, for in these the lesion is generally diffuse. All the nervous elements are altered and disappear in general paralysis, and the neuro-fibrillæ are really no exception to this statement, but their changes are of small import, being secondary. The neuro-fibrille in general paralysis is the *ultimum moriens*. SIDNEY CLARKE.

On Epilepsy in Senile Dementia [*De l'epilepsie chez les déments séniles*]. (*Rev. de Psych., Feb.*, 1909.) *Marchand, L., and Petit, G.*

Since the epileptic fit may appear in every form of cerebral disease, the authors consider it now out of place to call epilepsy an idiopathic