

Part III.—Epitome of Current Literature.

1. Neurology.

The Development of Human Motility and Motor Disturbances.
(*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October, 1928.) Schaltenbrand, G.

The author describes sundry peculiar reflexes which appear and disappear during the development of human motility. A number of them, present during the second half of the first year of life, are similar to reflexes of four-legged animals. In pathological conditions of the brain all the primitive reflexes of childhood may reappear or may be preserved for an abnormally long time. Tonic neck reflexes and a kind of Moro reflex may be observed in the decerebrate condition. In other cases of brain disease a "quad-rupedal syndrome" may appear. This syndrome consists of (1) a positive neck-righting reflex, (2) the primitive form of standing up from the recumbent position, and inability to sit up symmetrically, (3) difficulty in maintaining the upright position on the hind legs alone, and (4) impairment of the finer voluntary movements. It is often associated with difficulties of speech and sometimes with an impairment of mental activity.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

Muscle Tone. 1. Extensibility of Muscles in Decerebrate Rigidity.
(*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, January, 1929.) Pollock, L. F.,
and Davis, L.

The authors conclude that the extensibility of a muscle intoned by a tonic reflex is due to a peculiar physical property of such a muscle. This property may be an intermediate stage in the development of true muscular contractibility, the relation between the two being analogous to that of gum to rubber. The opposing muscle is dependent on the integrity of the posterior roots for its property of shortening to accommodate itself to the lengthening of the agonist, with a proper adjustment to length and to the load against which it works.

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The Cerebral Circulation. IV. The Action of Hypertonic Solutions.
Part II, A Study of the Circulation in the Cortex by Means of
Colour Photography. (*Arch. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, October,
1928.) Kubie, L. S., and Hetler, D. M.

Kubie and Hetler find that the intravenous injection of hypertonic solutions is followed by a dilatation of the vessels of the cortex, but by a narrowing of the vessels of the pia. The injection of distilled water produces the opposite effect. The authors consider that their results support the Monro-Kellie doctrine.

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