PSYCHOLOGICAL NOTES.

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Concerning some Peculiarities of the Sense of Touch.

By G. Sergi, Rome, Italy (Zeitschrift f. Psy. und Phys. des Sinnesorgane). The author first refers to the experiments by Bloch to determine the duration of the sensations of touch; first in 1875, later in 1877. Sergi desired to ascertain the acuteness of the skin's power for discriminating successive stimulations. In other words, how much of an interval must there be between successive touch stimulations to prevent their being fused into one continuous sensation. As apparatus, he used a series of six of König's tuning forks, set into vibration electrically, capable of 30, 100, 250, 435, 500 and 1,000 vibrations respectively. These forks were applied directly to various portions of the dermal area. After a large number of careful tests, Sergi reaches some interesting conclusions:

1. The different portions of the dermal surface are by no means *equally* capable of perceiving touch stimulations of weak intensity. The most sensitive portions of the skin are the tips of the fingers on the volar side, where the weakest stimulations are distinctly perceived.

2. The minimum of energy of the stimulus (or threshold) varies with different portions of the skin and with successive isochronous stimuli, as those of the tuning fork, the continuous sensation which proceeds is not the result of fusion of the impressions, but the result of the imperceivability of weak sense impressions.

3. The mucuous membrane of the glands experiences no sensations of a purely *tactile* character.

4. Two conditions must ever be borne in mind—conditions which really complement each other: (*a*) The intensity of the stimulus; (*b*) The special sensibility of the stimulated organ. Helmholtz demonstrates the truth of these with reference to sensations of light.

The experiments of Sergi, in a general way, substantiate the earlier ones of Weber, Rumpf and Schwaner.

Influence of Horizontal and Vertical Positions on the Cerebral Functions.

By Sicard de Plauzoles (Annales de Psych., 1893). This writer lays stress on the function of the blood in