upon by continental physicians under the head of post-epileptic rigidity, and contractures as paralytic equivalents. Rennie reports three cases highly illustrative of the title of his paper.

(To be continued)

- 58 · RECHERCHES THERMO-ÉLECTRIQUES SUR LE CERVEAU D'UN ÉPILEPTIQUE. Dr. G. Mirto (Arch. italiennes de biologie, Tome XXXII, Fasc. II, 26 Fevrier, 1900; pp. 335-340).

G. Lombardini, an epileptic, aged fifteen years, has a gap in his skull (caused by a fall in early infancy), irregular in shape, nine centimeters by four, and situated, with its long axis antero-posterior, in the parietal region. Above and behind it is over a small part of the parietal ascending convolution; behind it involves almost the whole of the superior parietal convolution and the highest portion of the inferior convolution. Convulsive attacks occur at intervals of days or of weeks, while attacks of epileptic vertigo are more common. He is mentally feeble and his vision is very defective.

Dr. Mirto studied the thermal changes in the cortex under various conditions. He employed a thermo-electric pile of forty couples of bismuth and antimony plates connected with a mirror-galvanometer of such sensitivity that a rise of one degree in temperature caused a movement of about 200 mm. on the scale. This was about the largest deviation he had ever obtained from cerebral changes, the instrument being applied to the hair-covered scalp.

The observation here recorded was made while the author was watching the scale, and consisted of a deflection of 42 mm. in the positive direction, corresponding to a rise of temperature of 0.2° on the surface of the scalp. It reached its maximum in 50 seconds, and in 115 seconds decreased to 8 mm. During this time the subject had undergone an epileptic seizure without convulsions; he was pale, with closed eyes, and in a state of semi-stupor, and had passed his urine.

Thus is confirmed by accident under ideal conditions the conclusions of Mosso arrived at from experiments on dogs, that an epileptic seizure is accompanied by a cortical rise of temperature independently of muscular innervation, for in this case no convulsions occurred. Dr. Mirto concludes as a corollary that the heat-producing process of the cortex is or may be independent, both of motor discharge and of psychic concomitance, as Mosso had already maintained.

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- 59 SUR L'IRRITABILITÉ. Note by Prof. A. Stefani (Arch. italiennes de biologie, XXXII, III, 26 Fevrier, 1900, pp. 439-450).

In this "note" Professor Stefani reviews the theory of irritability elaborated by Hering and published in 1889, basing the phenomena of irritability on automatic changes in the nutrition of the tissue, and practically claims that as early as 1879 he himself had published a similar doctrine on this subject.

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