Marinesco, G. AUTONOMY OF DIVIDED CORD. [Rev. Neur., Vol. 26, no. 4. J. A. M. A.]

Marinesco declares that the war experiences with completely severed spinal cords seem to have completely demolished Bastian's theory that reflex functioning is practically abolished after the cord has been severed in the lower part of the cervical or upper part of the dorsal region. This is true only of a brief primary period. Marinesco and others have demonstrated that the cord recuperates an actual autonomy. This does not seem to be the resumption of its former activity but a new activity of its own, which reproduces only rudimentarily the activity of the divided spinal cord in the dog. It is an inferior kind of activity which differs from normal activity and from that of decerebrated animals and of pathologic obstruction of the spinal cord-cortex route in man. There is no doubt that the fibers of the spinal cord can regenerate, but this anatomic regeneration is not systematized. It does not lead to reconstruction of nerve routes which would ensure the resumption of useful transmissions. Regeneration seems to be possible not only of the roots but of the white substance, but all the experiments and experiences to date demonstrate that the regeneration does not permit resumption of the old functioning. The activity of the spinal cord after complete separation from the cerebellum and brain is a new activity, pertaining exclusively to the spinal cord itself. The innervation of the extensors of the legs depends on the supramedullary centers, and these extensors do not regain their reflex activity. All the activity of the "spinal man" is in the sphere of the flexors. The flexors regain their tonus and function in a synergic manner, but their temperature is below normal, and electric tests show a different response from normal. The assumption seems plausible therefore that there is an autonomous activity of the spinal cord. It is manifested by defensive movements, but these defensive movements cannot be identified with the reflex defensive movements of the decapitated frog, as they are purposeless and could not serve in any way for actual defense reflexes.

Brown, Graham Stewart. A PHENOMENON OF "HETERESTHESIA." [Rev. of Neurol. and Psych., July-August, 1918.]

These authors describe a phenomenon which they designate by the new name heteresthesia. This denotes a difference in the degree of subjective sensibility to stimuli of equal degrees applied to different parts of the skin. When a stimulus of a constant strength (the scratch of a pin, the faradic current) is drawn across the skin, the subject states that an apparent change in sensation occurs at certain comparatively stable lines of demarcation. The phenomenon has been observed in two cases of compression of the cervical spinal cord, in one case of fracture of the skull with severe concussion and in six cases of concussion from shell burst. In the latter the condition was transitory and the