Report on the Present Status of the Academic Institutes for Brain Study, together with a Report of the Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Brain Commission, Held at Berlin, March 14, 1908.

(1). The Brain Commission has suffered a serious loss in the death in April of this year (1908) of Herr Guldberg, of Christiania. Herr Guldberg was greatly interested in the matter of brain study and was endeavoring to develop a department for the investigation of the brain in the institute of which he was director. At the next meeting of the Brain Commission at Bologna, it will be necessary to choose his successor.

By vote of the members, Mr. I. D. Wilson of Sydney, Australia, has been made a member of the Brain Commission, so that with the successor to Herr Guldberg, who is to be chosen, there are 31 members of the Brain Commission.

(2). The recognized academic institutes for brain study are at present the following:

(A). The Neurological Institute at Vienna directed by Herr Obersteiner. This is at the same time officially recognized as the Central Institute for Austria (Cisleithan).

(B). The Institute at Leipzig, directed by Herr Flechsig. This is connected with the Neurological-Psychiatric Clinic of the University.

(C). The Senckenberg Neurological Institute at Frankfurt a/M, directed by Herr Edinger.

(D). The Institute at Zürich, directed by Herr von Monakow. This is associated with the Neurological Clinic of the University.

(E). The Institute for brain study at Philadelphia, under the direction of Mr. H. H. Donaldson. This is a department of the Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology, Mr. M. J. Greenman, Director.

(F). The Institute at Madrid, under the direction of Senor Ramon Cajal.

(G). The Psycho-Neurological Institute of the Imperial Academy of Military Medicine at St. Petersburg, under the direction of Herr Bechterew.

(3). Herr Bolk and Herr C. Winkler have reported that the establishment of an Institute for Brain Study at Amsterdam is assured. The

building has already been begun and there has been appropriated for the equipment 25,000 Fl. and for the annual expenses 10,000 Fl.

(4). The association of the registered (Kartellierten) Academics has not approved the establishment of a Central Institute for all Germany and prefers that the establishment of such institutes be left with the individual states. As a result, the Royal Prussian Academy of Sciences has submitted to the present ministry of education a petition in which the establishment of a large institute representing all the lines of brain study is proposed. A decision has not yet been rendered.

(5). Herr Edinger has published in the *Frankfurter Zeitschrift für Pathologie* a report on the Senckenberg Neurological Institute since 1885, I may note from the report that the Institute possesses a collection of 10,000 preparations representing all lines of brain study, and further a library with 6,000 titles, which contains almost the complete literature on brain anatomy for the past twenty-five years, as well as the special periodicals, so far as these are not represented in the Senckenberg library. Further this report gives a complete list of the investigations published from the Institute under the direction of Herr Edinger.

The rooms are admirably arranged and adequately supplied with the necessary instruments.

In addition to the Director, Herr Edinger, there are at work at the Institute two heads of departments, two assistants (women), one preparator and a janitor skilled in photography.

(6). At the meeting of the Executive Committee in Berlin, on the 14th of March, all the members were present, *i. e.*, Herrn Ehlers, Flechsig, H. Munk, Obersteiner and the undersigned.

Herr Flechsig and Herr Obersteiner reported concerning their respective institutes.

Both institutes are fully equipped. In the Institute of Herr Flechsig, at Leipzig, there has been begun a collection of brains from persons known during life. From these, suitable cases will be described. In addition, there is a large pathological-anatomical collection of the brains of persons suffering from speech defects, and also brains of anthropoids, among which are two gorilla brains; also a collection of 60,000 brain sections. Finally, there is a department for experimental psychology and for chemical work. Moreover, Herr Flechsig stated that Professor Held had in the Anatomical Institute a large collection of microscopical preparations, among which were preparations showing the development of nerve fibrillæ.

Herr Obersteiner stated that the Neurological Institute directed by him would this year celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its founding. The plan of the new institute which will be erected in the Schwarzschanierstrasse has been determined upon. As mentioned above, the Institute has been officially recognized as the Central Institute for Austria. All lines of brain study, especially embryological and histological investigations, will be fostered there. The library contains 60,000 volumes of which Herr Obersteiner has given 30,000 (reprints included). The collection contains, among other things, complete series of sections of the Orang brain, series of spinal cord sections mainly from mammals, and a large number of models.

The undersigned reported on the previously mentioned petition from the Prussian Academy of Sciences to the Ministry of Education. Further he reported that the Academy had granted him 1,000 M. for the preparation of an anatomical nomenclature of the brain. This nomenclature will apply primarily to the human brain and only incidentally include comparative anatomy. The terms are to be chosen as impartially as possible and these will be accompanied by a list of synonyms. Professor Dr. W. Krause and the undersigned have undertaken the preparation. This list will be submitted first to Herr Flechsig, then to the members of the Brain Commission and to the Chairmen of the special commissions, *i. e.*, Herrn Ehlers, Golgi, Retzius, H. Munk and Obersteiner. (The Chairman of the Anatomical Commission is the undersigned.)

(7). It was further decided:

(A). To send the association of united academies a note thanking them for the interest thus far shown in the matter of brain study, and asking them to continue their interest. In those countries where Institutes do not yet exist, they are to be especially urged to petition their respective governments, in the same way as has been done by the Berlin Academy, for the establishment of Institutes for brain study.

(B). To request the recognized Institutes for brain study to send in as soon as possible a short report of their status, similar to those furnished by Herrn Edinger, Flechsig and Obersteiner.

(C). In view of the fact that in the year 1909, Rome will be the place of meeting for the associated academies, and that it does not seem desirable that the Brain Commission and the associated academies meet at the same place, Bologna has been chosen as the place for the next meeting of the Brain Commission.

The undersigned will confer with Herr Luciani in Rome, concerning the appropriate time—immediately preceding the meeting of the academies at Rome,—and the other arrangements.

(D). Finally it was decided to send this report

(1). To the Academia dei Lincei in Rome as the presiding academy of the association at this time.

(2). To all the members of the Brain Commission.

(3). To the previously mentioned Chairmen of the special commissions.

WALDEYER,
President of the Brain Commission.