tinguishing a spinal portion which arises from a long group of cells in the lateral projection of the anterior cornua, and a medullary portion whose cells are not separable from the cells of the vagus nucleus. Darkschewitsch claims that the nerve arises from a continuous column of cells lying laterad and dorsad from the median group of the anterior cornua and preserving the same relation to the hypoglossal nucleus in the medulla. This column extends from the fifth cervical segment upward to the lower vagus nucleus at the lower third of the olivary body. The accessorius nucleus has therefore no connection with the upper or lower vagus nucleus, nor with the solitary fasciculus, as was claimed by Stieda. The roots of the nerve pass from the nucleus laterad, making a sharp curve in their course to the surface. The concave side of the curve is directed ventrad and laterad.—*Neurolog. Centralbl.*, March 15th.

THE POSTERIOR COMMISSURE OF THE BRAIN.—Spitzka has destroyed the entire left thalamo-crural region in a cat and observed the subsequent atrophy. He describes the following changes: The posterior commissure was reduced to half its normal size. The fibres from the left thalamus to the commissure were absent. The fibres from the commissure to the right half of the tegmentum were absent. There was present on the left side a distinct field under the posterior longitudinal fasciculus, close to the raphé, which was continuous with the posterior commissural fibres. This field was atrophied on the right side. There was an atrophy of the reticular field on the left side, lying between the posterior longitudinal fasciculus and the descending trigeminus root. There was atrophy of the right nucleus of Burdach.

He concludes that the thalamus is connected with the fundamental strand of the anterior column of the oblongata by means of the internal fibres of the reticular field—which cross in the posterior commissure,—and that the thalamus or subthalamie region is connected with the nucleus of Burdach by means of fibres which pass in the middle part of the reticular field, and decussate in the medulla. The first tract Spitzka names the thalamo-tegmental tract. It decussates in the posterior commissure. This experiment confirms the conclusion of Meynert, that each thalamus is connected with both reticular fields of the tegmentum by two great strands, one direct and one crossed.—*Alienist and Neurologist*, April, 1885; *Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*, April, 1885.

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b.—PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

A HEAT-CENTRE IN THE CEREBRUM.—Herr Aronsohn and J. Sachs have made a series of experiments upon this subject on rabbits and dogs. The experiments were made upon the brain of rabbits with a needle, and the rectal temperature noted. After