I attribute to the bodies being now invariably injected with a solution of *nitre* and *salts* (*bay-salts*) previously to their being dissected. If the part is not to be preserved as a *dry* preparation, there is not a single objection to the use of these salts, while the advantages, independently of the effect which it seems to have on the morbid poison, are considerable. Indeed, it is now common for students to keep a body for eight or ten weeks; and even after this time there is scarcely any smell, and the muscles of the limbs appear fresh and florid.

‘Previously to our practising the plan of injecting bodies with the salt solution, very serious consequences frequently resulted from pricks or wounds, and particularly in spring, when the students had become a little enervated from the effects of a winter in town.

‘The only cases that have occurred during the last three or four years have proceeded from the dissection of the ligaments, after the limb had been kept for some time in water, or in preparing bones that had been macerated; being, in short, the only occasions on which the student is subjected to putrid matter not corrected by the solution of *nitre* and *bay-salts*’.—*Lond. Med. Journ.*

It is proper to add, that the use of *saline* solutions, as here recommended, has been objected to on the grounds of their destroying the edges of the knives employed in dissection; and ardent spirits (*whiskey*, for example,) has been, it is said, substituted in America with great advantage.—*Lond. Med. Repos. & Review.*

Note on the Structure of the Nerves, read to the Academy of Sciences, Paris. By M. BOGROS.

REIL, to whom we are indebted for almost all that we know of the structure of the nerves, had demonstrated that they consist of two distinct parts, the neurilema and the pulp; and he pointed out the manner in which both may be satisfactorily shewn. By means of dilute nitric acid, the neurilema may be destroyed; and the medullary threads will be observed crossing each other, and anastomosing in the form of real commissures, which may be compared to that of the optic nerves. Bichat, who traced these threads to a considerable extent, had remarked that their direction is very variable, owing to these anastomoses, so that those which, at one place, were superior, became, at another, either central or inferior. A different manner of experimenting, undertaken by Reil, confirmed the results of his former researches. After plunging the nerves into an alkaline solution, he observed that the pulp was destroyed,

the neurilematic envelopes remaining empty, and presenting a multitude of canals communicating with each other, giving them, according to M. Bécclard, the appearance of a reed.

The researches of anatomists had led to no more precise knowledge than this, when M. Bogros commenced his inquiries; from which inquiries it seems to result, that besides the neurilema and pulp, there exists a central canal. By the aid of tubes somewhat resembling those which are employed in injecting the lymphatics, but having a much finer extremity, M. B. attempted to inject the nervous fibriles. The experiments were performed in both living and dead animals, and preliminary preparation was found to be unnecessary to their success.

When a nerve is punctured by the properly prepared point of a tube filled with mercury, the injection traverses all the fibriles furnished by the nervous chord, to their remotest extremities, and may be traced even into the papillæ of the skin and mucous surfaces, in the muscles, &c. The injection proceeds also towards the origin of the nerve; and, even when introduced into a single fibrile, it passes into several others, by means of the canals of the anastomoses which exist in the commissures, of which we have spoken.

If, after this injection has been made, the nerve be divided, a round and regular opening may be seen in the centre of the pulp. With attention, also, and without any previous injection, an obscure point may be observed, in the centre of the pulp, after a transverse section of the fibrile. This is the opening with which M. Bogros has concerned himself: upon placing the point of the tube here, the nerve is injected.

When the nerve is deprived of its neurilema by means of nitric acid, the same results are obtained, proving incontestably, in M. B.'s opinion, that the canal is open in the pulp. When, on the contrary, the pulp is removed by means of an alkaline ley, the injection, under the same pressure, proceeds badly—it is frequently arrested, and presents not the same regular and cylindrical aspect as is observed in the other circumstances of the experiment. Finally, if the essence of turpentine be injected into the nervous fibriles, and these be afterwards dried, the canalculated structure then becomes manifest to the eye.

The mercury also traverses the fibriles of the great sympathetic, and there demonstrates the existence of canals similar to those in the nerves of animal life. From the fibriles the mercury passes into the ganglions, and out of ganglions into other fibriles. Thus the injection pushed into the inferior cervical nerve traverses the cardiac nerves until it arrives at the

heart, and from the great sympathetic it passes into the semi-lunar ganglion and the fibriles proceeding from it.

When the injection reaches the ganglions, they are seen to swell, and to assume the appearance of a multitude of small tubes opening into each other, and folded and contorted upon themselves.

The injection of the intervertebral ganglions presents peculiar appearances. At first they swell, afterwards the injection penetrates into the venous reticulum, situated between their proper surface and the envelope furnished them by the dura mater, and thence into the veins of this membrane itself. Finally, the injection is seen passing through the roots of the nerves, and falling into the cavity of the dura mater, owing either to the easy rupture of the pulp at this part, where it is very soft, or to the existence of natural openings in it. The injection cannot be made to pass into the roots of the spinal nerves; and, consequently, it cannot reach the spinal marrow. Of the injection which has passed into the veins, some globules have been found as far as the right auricle of the heart. But none of the mercury was ever detected in any of the arteries or lymphatics.

The anastomoses take place by the conference of the medullary canals and the confusion of the pulp: towards the point where the anastomoses have place, the nerve increases in volume in the ratio of that of the two fibriles forming it. The injection has been performed in the nerves of living frogs: when it began to be introduced, convulsions ensued in the muscles which receive their fibriles from the points which contained the mercury: when it was finished, there was a complete paralysis, which was not increased by dividing the nerve.

The preparations thus made could not be preserved, because the nerves, in drying, became contracted and horny, and expelled the mercury from their cavities.—*Revue Méd., Mai 1825.*

Cases of Diabetes. By Professor FRANCESCHI.

CASE I.—John Boreschi, aged 57 years, came into the hospital on the 20th April, 1820. He said that he had been ill for a month. He attributed his complaints to mental causes, after which an erysipelatous inflammation attacked his knee. This inflammation gradually disappeared: but he soon afterwards began to lose flesh, to complain of dryness of the lips, gnawing sensation at the stomach, which was painful on pressure, and when he took warm aliment; inextinguishable thirst;