ference of circulation, meningitis, the impregnation of the brain by toxic products of disassimilation, surrounding inflammation and many other causes. Finally the author concludes, with Ball, that when a true psychosis is found associated with a cerebral tumor, there is every reason to believe that the association is a simple coincidence.

2. *Psychology of Memories* (concluded).—An experimental study confined solely to the domain of psychology and having little interest from the standpoint of psychiatry.

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MISCELLANY

HYPNOTICS AND THEIR DANGERS. Dr. Nestor Tirard (Lancet, April 11, 1903).

In a treatise on some dangers of hypnotics the author draws the following conclusions: He says that he is convinced that in the employment and in the selection of a hypnotic sleeplessness is perhaps the least important factor to be considered, although it may be the sole symptom of which complaint is made. The cause must be ascertained, together with any indications of idiosyncrasy. The co-existence of other diseases must influence the selection of the hypnotic, and even when, for the individual case, a suitable hypnotic has been found, risks of repeating moderate doses must be borne in mind. Generally the dose has to be gradually increased, especially when the cause has not been ascertained or satisfactorily dealt with, but with some drugs, e.g., sulphonal, trional and tetronal, the danger appears to lie in the total quantity taken, even though each dose may have been small. But perhaps the greatest danger of all is incurred when the patient is given a prescription for a hypnotic, and this danger has certain analogies with the medicinal employment of alcohol. Many of us believe that at the height of fever or in conditions of collapse, alcohol is often necessary, but it is never recommended to our patients for indefinite use, still less for increasing doses. Armed with a prescription for a hypnotic patients commonly go on taking the drug long after the relief of the special circumstance for which it was prescribed, and the prescription may be used to facilitate the acquisition of large quantities of a dangerous drug obtained, perhaps, at several establishments in small amounts. Notwithstanding the relief which many have derived from the use of hypnotics, he is in favor of any step which tends to prevent their administration, except by the medical man or under his immediate directions. He has seen so much of the dangers of hypnotics that he would prohibit their sale to the public or would allow them only to be dispensed to a freshly-dated prescription, which should be retained by the druggist or returned to the prescriber.

JELLIFFE.

NERVE SUTURE AND NERVE DEGENERATION. P. B. Henriksen (Lancet, April 11, 1903).

In a study on the subject of nerve suture and nerve degeneration, the author says, considering the question of whether a degenerated nerve can be supposed to be to some extent conducting: This question may be solved in two ways—either by proving conducting elements in the degenerated nerve or by proving effects of the nerve function during the degeneration period. According to what has formerly been mentioned, the new fibers must be supposed to be formed of elements in the peripheral part of the nerve. What are these elements, and at what time can they be shown as continuing courses fit for conducting a nerve impulse? When a nerve is divided the weight of a corresponding muscle will diminish rapidly. By weighing the muscle twelve days after dividing one peroneal nerve of a rabbit it was found that the muscle corresponding to the divided nerve weighed 4.77 grams, while the muscle on the other side weighed 6.98