CLINICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OF
TETANUS.

Prof. R. v. Jaksch (Prague, Zeitschr. f. klin. Med., 1890, Bd. 17, Suppl. S., 144). The writer has made a careful study of this disease from very numerous observations which he had at hand. Hence he is able to furnish a valuable contribution to the casuistics of tetanus, which importance is heightened by the observation of many symptoms unobserved up to now. The results of the observations are, in short, as follows:

The majority of the patients, which were males, were mostly seventeen or eighteen years old, and all workingmen (nearly fifty per cent. being shoemakers). Most of them fell sick in the months of February, March, and April. Neither heredity nor any preceding diseases were of etiological importance.

General prodromal phenomena precede the beginning of the disease.

The tonic spasms of the extremity always begin at the distal end of the phalanges.

Among the disturbances of sensation, paræsthesiæ are the most frequent and pronounced; trophic disturbances are more rarely observed.

He was able to notice an elevation of the galvanic excitability of the nerves.

No important changes were remarked in the relation of the reflexes.

The average duration of the disease is two to three days. Relapses are very frequent.

What is remarkable is the deviation of the temperature of the body from the normal, which he gives in extensive tables.

The increase in temperature is moderately febrile. In one-seventh of the cases no cause could be discovered; in the other cases intermittent and slight typhoid fever could not be excluded with certainty. Hence the elevation of temperature appears to belong to the picture of tetanus—at least it appears and disappears with the other symptoms, to make way for a subnormal one. Therefore the writer is inclined to accept the probability that tetanus owes its origin to a certain noxa; but unfortunately the attempts of the writer to discover it were negative.

Clinically he calls the disease *acute relapsing tetanus*, and contrasts it with a *chronic* form, which is often observed during pregnancy and after extirpation of goitres.

Finally, tetanus may be the symptom of *grave cerebral disease*, of which the writer gives a striking example.