process does not start from the cells of fibres of the cornua, but in the district of the anterior vessels. Acute poliomyelitis is a kind of acute myelitis, characterised by its limitation to the anterior and lateral regions of the cord. The changes in the white matter are of a different nature as those of secondary degeneration, as well as regressive and differently distributed.

Waller on the Latent Time of the Opening Contraction. (*Archives de Physiologie*, 1882. No. 3.)—The author has found on the human nerve that the latent time of the opening contraction was much longer than that of the closure contraction, and was led to investigate whether this indicates a persistence of the anelectrotonic state after the opening of the circuit. This persistence he demonstrated by the following experiment. A galvanic and a faradic (200 interruptions per sec.) current are placed in circuit, so that the exploring electrode contains the galvanic anode and faradic kathode. Their respective strength is so regulated that the anelectrotonic influence of the galvanic suspends the tetanising effect of the faradic. The galvanic current is then removed from the circuit by derivation, and the contraction following the physiological release of the faradic stimulus recorded on the cylinder. The author's tracings show that the anelectrotonic condition may persist .05 sec. after the opening of the galvanic circuit. The latent time of the opening contraction exceeds that of the closure contraction by .04 sec.

A. DE WATTEVILLE.

Marcacci, Experiments on the Cerebral Motor Centres. (*Comptes Rendus de la Société de Biologie*, 1882. Nos. 4 et 5. Preliminary notice.)—Of the movements caused by electrical currents applied to the surface of the brain, the author sought to distinguish what are due to excitation of the cortex and what to that of sub-jacent parts, medulla and cord, and arrives at the conclusion that the effects of excitation are not altered when the cortex is rendered physiologically inert. The author's chief results are as follows:—The movements excited by electrical currents at the surface of the brain are similar before and after the cortex has been frozen by the spray until it is as hard as wood; a similar difference is observed in anæsthesia, provided this be not so deep as to involve the suppression of spinal reflexes, and in paraplegia produced by freezing in a ring round the exposed medulla; ligature of the brachio-cephalic and left carotid does not alter the effect of