Albanese, A. MODIFICATIONS IN TRANSPLANTED NERVES. [Arch. ital. di chir., 1921, IV, No. 215. Med. Sc.]

An experimental inquiry on the fate of nerve fragments transplanted into muscle, and on the differences in tissue-reaction in the host induced by homo-, auto-, and hetero-transplants. The animals used were rabbits and dogs. The nerves were implanted, with all precautions and great delicacy, into the glutei; there was no attempt to bring the grafts into relation with nerve cords. In the case of hetero-transplants the lipoids of the medullary sheath are slowly transformed into neutral fats; there is a rapid oedematous swelling of the axis cylinders, which persist nevertheless, though of necrotic aspect. The nuclei of the sheath of Schwann disappear though an ill-staining filamentous mass remains. The tissues of the host betray but feeble proliferation, with little tendency to invade the transplanted fragment. Homo- and auto-transplants alike show an intense transformation of lipoids to neutral fats which undergo rapid absorption. The axis cylinders quickly disappear. The sheath of Schwann preserves its appearance as an organized tissue even after forty days, and the nuclei survive. At the same time there is a rich proliferation of the connective tissue of the host, with swift invasion and organization of the graft.

Macaggi, G. B. BIFURCATION OF THE POSTERIOR TIBIAL NERVE. [Arch. ital. di Chir., 1921, III, No. 507-16. Med. Sc.]

Normally the nerve divides 1.5 cm. above the tip of the malleolus, whilst the artery of the same nerve divides three cm. lower, or on the level of the sustentaculum, after it has crossed the internal plantar nerve. The arterial division is very constant in level, but the nerve in 13.5 per cent of cases divides much higher than usual and by as much sometimes as 8.5 cm. To expose the nerve it is advisable to use, not the semilunar incision customary for the artery, but a vertical one above it.

Burke, N. H. M. ELECTRICAL STIMULATION OF NERVES AT OPERATION. [Lancet, April 3, 1920.]

Conductivity to electrical currents is conclusive evidence of physiologic continuity of nerve fibers, as also is excitability below the lesion. Improvement in conductivity or in peripheral excitability, this surgeon says, following immediately after neurolysis is suggestive of only slight compression and possibly chemical nerve-block. Absence of conductivity and of excitability, even after neurolysis, is not conclusive evidence of division, but is an indication of severe nerve disturbance, although not insuperable.

Sargent, Percy. LESIONS OF THE BRACHIAL PLEXUS ASSOCIATED WITH RUDIMENTARY RIBS. [Brain, July, 1921. Aust. M. J.]

Variations in the composition of the brachial plexus according to Sargent are apt to be associated with costal abnormalities, prefxiation, *i.e.*, failure of the first dorsal contribution, with a seventh cervical rib,