Current Literature

I. VISCERAL NEUROLOGY

2. ENDOCRINOPATHIES.

Cajal, R. Y. THE NERVOUS MECHANISM OF THE OVARY. [Trabajos, XVI, 1919, 279.]

Cajal finds that the Golgi method proves itself superior to any other in revealing certain interesting points in the structure of the ovary particularly in regard to its *innervation*, the exact formation of the *Graafian follicle* and the relations of this with the *pellucid membrane*.

Sistrunk, W. E. EXOPHTHALMIC GOITER. [J. A. M. A., Jan. 31, 1920.]

The successful treatment of exophthalmic goiter by surgical measures for a number of years past and the increasingly lowered mortality form the subject of this paper.

It is possible now, he says, to operate by modern methods in a large number of consecutive cases without a death. There are still a few cases that present risks, but on the other hand poor judgment in selecting the type of operation, and in advising operation in unfit cases increases the mortality. If the disease is allowed to run its course, it progresses in several different ways. In a few instances the onset is sudden, and it progresses so rapidly that the patient soon becomes a bad risk for surgery. In the majority of cases, however, the onset is so gradual that it is hardly recognizable at first, by any but an expert. The symptoms gradually increase in number and severity, and thyroid enlargement occurs. As a rule the disease reaches its height during the second six months, the symptoms become exaggerated, and marked damage occurs in the vital organs, such as the heart, liver and kidneys. Unless death occurs, the majority of patients improve rapidly after a period of from one to several weeks, though with a general impairment of health, lasting from a few months to several years, when in a majority of instances a second or even a third crisis occurs, and the patient suffers more from the degenerative processes produced than from the disease itself. In a minority of patients, the disease runs a chronic course from the start without any acute crises. Fortunately, and also unfortunately, patients improve with medical treatment only—fortunately, because patients unfit for surgical treatment may be made better risks by these measures, and unfortunately, because the improvement leads them to avoid curative surgery until they are unfit for it. It is