

Descending Degeneration in the Crus Cerebri. By G. ROSSOLYMO. *Neurol. Centralbl.*, Nos. 7 and 8, 1886.

It is well known that after a lesion of the central convolutions a descending degeneration can be traced through the middle third of the crus cerebri. The middle third of the crus is therefore known to be the position occupied by the motor tract.

The researches of Brissaud have proven that the inner third of the crus degenerates downward after lesions of the frontal convolutions. In it there pass the tract which joins these convolutions with the nuclei in the pons varolii. Rossolymo now reports two cases of degeneration of the outer third of the crus cerebri. In the first case an embolus in the middle cerebral artery had produced extensive atrophy of the frontal, central and anterior portions of the parietal and temporal convolutions; the posterior half of the parietal, and temporal lobes and the occipital lobe escaping. The entire crus cerebri was atrophied and degenerated, only a few fibres in its outer third being preserved. The patient had no sensory symptoms, and lived one year after the onset of the disease. In the second case the outer and middle thirds of the crus were degenerated after a lesion of the parietal and temporal lobes.

1. Bechterew has reported a case of total destruction of one hemisphere with degeneration in the entire crus, and another case of destruction of the parietal, temporal and occipital lobes with degeneration of the outer third of the crus.

2. These observations would render probable a connection of the outer third of the crus with the posterior part of the parietal, and with the temporal lobes.

3. Charcot and his school have held with Meynert that sensory impulses are transmitted upward in the outer third of the crus. This view is opposed by the statements of Flechsig and by the facts here recorded, since in this case the outer third of the crus was destroyed without the production of sensory symptoms. These facts also confirm the position advanced by the reporter that the sensory tract lies in the outer half of the tegmentum and does not pass through the crus.—*JOUR. NERV. AND MENT. DIS.*, July, 1884.

M. A. STARR.

A Contribution to the Comparative Study of Convulsions. By J. HUGHLINGS-JACKSON, *Brain*, April, 1886.

Among an interesting series of articles in a remarkably good number of *Brain*, this article of Hughlings-Jackson is the most remarkable. The subject-matter, the manner in which it is presented, the peculiar diction, all are truly * * * Jacksonian! The author returns to a subject which he discussed most skilfully years ago, and he does this apparently to proclaim a change in his former views. He believed in former years that "no variety of convulsion in man arose from any sort of change below the cerebrum proper"; but he now holds that *some* convulsions in children depend on lesion of the pons or medulla oblongata. He