

special mention: Pale complexion and emaciation induced by derangement of sleep and nervous dyspepsia; pronounced redness of the conjunctivæ and the ears; dilatation and frequently transient inequality of the pupils; incomplete closure of the eyelids when directed to stand with closed eyes; fibrillary tremor in the orbicularis oris and in the musculature of the tongue; weakness in convergence of the eyes; unconscious and aimless movements of the extremities; increase of the skin and tendon reflexes (loss of knee-jerk was not observed); pronounced mechanical irritability of the facial nerve; increased electrical irritability of nerves; weakness and indistinctness of speech; manifestations of paraphasia and verbal amnesia; changes and errors in writing; a disposition to abnormal laughing and yawning; acceleration and irregularity of heart's action; abnormal prominence of the temporal arteries in consequence of vasomotor disturbances; nervous dyspepsia with anomalies of the motor and secretory functions of the stomach, with eructations and vomiting; nervous constipation and diarrhoea; polyuria, phosphaturia, and oxaluria, moreover a uric acid diathesis of long duration. The latter may be associated with a neuropathic condition either congenital or acquired, or with the neurasthenic state (Löwenfeld, *Neurolog. Centrbl.*, 1892, No. 17). W. M. L.

#### A CASE OF HUNTINGTON'S CHOREA, WITH AUTOPSY.

The following case is reported by Drs. Kronthal and Kalischer in the "*Neurologisches Centralblatt*," Nos. 19 and 20, 1892. The patient was a woman, forty-five years of age. The chorea began in her thirtieth year. One sister was similarly affected at the same age. Her grandmother, mother, and mother's cousin also suffered from chorea. Her father died of phthisis. The patient showed all of the symptoms of the disease, together with endocarditis. Eight days before death she fell, striking her head, and producing a fracture at the base of the skull. The autopsy was made forty-eight hours after death.

After an exhaustive and elaborate description of the anatomical findings, and a review of the literature of the subject, the authors summarize the result of their histological examination, which was made in Mendel's laboratory (excluding those conditions found at the autopsy which were the immediate cause of death).

1. Adhesion of the dura to the skull, especially in the frontal region.

2. Firm adhesion of the dura with the pia mater.

3. Numerous localized areas of thickening of the pia with cell infiltration. Increased vascularity and connective tissue formation; lamellar formation over the convexity of the cerebrum, cerebellum, and the anterior surface of the cord.

4. Adhesion of the pia to the cortex on convexity, especially over the frontal lobes and the central gyri.

5. Slight atrophy of frontal lobes, *i.e.*, remarkable smallness of the convolutions.

6. Abundance of vessels, some normal and others thickened in the cortex, with multiplication of nuclei.

7. Lacunæ and cavities in the lenticular nucleus; extravasation of blood and pigment formation around thickened vessels which contain thrombi.

8. Anomalies in the tegmental nucleus of one side.

9. Hemorrhage in the region of the exit of the oculomotor fibres.

10. Punctate degeneration in both cerebral peduncles.

11. Circumscribed degeneration (sclerosis) in the central (ventricular) gray matter at the level and below the corpora quadrigemina.

12. Slight degeneration in the facial and auditory nuclei, the hypoglossal nucleus and roots, and the ascending root of the trigeminus of one side.

13. Diffuse degeneration of the pyramidal tracts of the crura cerebri.

14. Diffuse degeneration of a milder degree in the lateral and anterior columns of the entire cord, extending to the upper lumbar segments; degeneration of the internal portion of Goll's columns in the lower cervical and upper dorsal cord.

15. Slight degeneration of the cells in the anterior horn, the cells of Clarke's columns and the anterior roots.

16. Circumscribed sclerosis in the commissure, between the central canal and one anterior horn in the mid-dorsal region.

17. Absence of chromatogenic substance in the ganglion cells of the cortex.

18. A very slight amount of degeneration in the peripheral nerves.

In conclusion, the writers state that "we do not feel justified in assuming that the pathological changes in the

nervous system found in the present case, are the cause of the chronic chorea. We hope at some future time by the most accurate histological study in other cases, to reach a decision as to whether any of our findings are at all frequent or even typical in this disease." W. M. L.

### JACKSONIAN EPILEPSY OF SYPHILITIC ORIGIN.

Bernheim reports a case in the "*Revue médicale de l'Est*," January 1, 1892. Epileptic attacks following a blow upon the head were frequent. Ten years earlier the patient, a prostitute, thirty-four years old, had been treated for syphilis; treatment renewed in form of mercurial inunction and large doses of iodide of potassium, which stopped the epileptic attacks. Two years later the patient again applied for relief of epilepsy, which had appeared after violent emotion. The relapse being due to purely psychic causes and local in its manifestation (consciousness and respiration intact), it was considered functional only, and not the result of extension of organic processes. Every cortical brain lesion being an epileptogenic centre, it can be stimulated by any dynamic influence. Attacks thus brought about may disappear spontaneously or give way to some other dynamic influence, as hypnotism, which proved efficacious in the case recorded. L. F. B.

### THE ROLANDIC AREA CORTEX.

Such is the title of a paper read before the Neurological Society of London, and contributed to the summer number of "*Brain*." The author, Dr. Eugene Dupuy, is well known in connection with the forcible opposition he has maintained against the conclusions drawn by the larger portion of neuro-physiologists, relative to the electrical irritability of the cortical-motor areas, and the genetic significance of the movements resulting from such stimulation. In the present article he endeavors to maintain and fortify his position. He states that so far no other agent than electricity produces any effect on the motor apparatus of animals when applied to the cortex. The points which, when excited by electricity give rise to a motor action, coincide with spots where arteries with nerves penetrate into the white matter or strands of fibres. He reiterates