

and thoracic portions of the vagus. Irritation, however, of the splanchnic nerves in the thoracic cavity, above and below the diaphragm, showed that both the centrifugal and centripetal fibres are contained exclusively in the N. splanchnicus major sinister; the irritation of the peripheral end of which caused an enduring and considerable contraction of the spleen, while that of its central end only produced pain. Experiments on the corresponding nerve of the right side and on the lesser splanchnic nerve were without effect.

Direct electrical irritation of the left anterior spinal roots with a weak induced current, showed that contractions could be induced, between the third and tenth thoracic vertebra; but irritation of other anterior roots, above as well as below, gave on the left side, only negative results. It indicated also that the centrifugal splenic nerve fibres left the cord by several roots, since irritation of only one caused but a slight contraction.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE MEDULLARY NERVE SHEATH.—J. McCarthy, (*Quarterly Journal of Micr. Science*, 1875, 372, noticed in *Centralbl. f. d. Med. Wissensch.*.) calls attention to a peculiar appearance of the medullary sheaths of nerve fibres, when treated with simple chromate of ammonia. It seems to be made up of little rods lying in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the fibre, and giving an appearance somewhat like that of striped muscular fibre. This must not be confounded with the striated appearance of the axis cylinder described by Frommann, Grandry, and others. The author calls attention, also, to the fact that Lautermann (*Centralbl.* 1874, 706) had likewise noted a striated appearance of the medullary sheath, after treatment with osmic acid.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SPINAL GANGLIA.—Holl, *Sitzungsab. d. k. Akad. d. Wissensch.* Wien. 1876. (Abst. in *Revue des Sci. Medicales.*) The author seeks to solve the questions as to what is the structure of the posterior spinal ganglia; whether the same number of fibres enter and leave them, each cell being simply interposed on the track of a nerve; or whether the ganglion gives rise to new fibres. He chose the method of counting the fibres above and below the ganglion, to answer these queries, the same as that already employed by R. Wagner, who favored the view that the cells were bipolar. Hall found that there was no notable increase in fibres, after leaving the ganglion; the slight, apparent increase, he concludes to be an error in counting, and that no new fibres arise.

THE NUCLEUS OF THE FACIAL NERVE.—At the session of the Soc. de Biologie, July 1, (rep. in *Le Progres Medical.*) M. Duval gave a short summary of his researches on the disposition of the facial in the medulla. To reach its double nucleus, this nerve follows a very complex route, resembling in its windings that followed by the aqueduct of Sylvius. The first of these nuclei, the *genou* of the facial, is common to it and the motor oculi externus. The second, the true nucleus of the nerve, situated under the superficial layers of the circular fibres, is placed near the superior