

degeneration of the fibres of the corona radiata by the microscope, and his inference was that the nerves of the pia mater aforesaid had alone degenerated, giving rise to the result described.

The "motor" regions of the cortex, according to this view, differ from the rest on account of peculiarities in their vascular supply, the vessels seeming to penetrate at once deeply into the brain, and it is possible that the movements are due to localized arterial spasms, different arterial branches being supplied by different nerve-fibres.

As instances of other reflex phenomena due to excitation of definite points of the cortex cerebri, the speaker referred, finally, to the experiments of Bochefontaine and Lépine, as to the effects of such excitations upon the secretion of saliva, the circulation of the blood, and the movements of the intestines.

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### SALICYLIC ACID IN ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

BY E. L. WARREN, M. D., SOUTH FRAMINGHAM.

IN order to form a correct judgment of the therapeutic value of any remedy in controlling satisfactorily any disease, it is necessary to test the remedy repeatedly, and to study carefully its effects in a sufficient number of cases. That an almost unlimited number of remedies has been used for the treatment of acute rheumatism, without special benefit in cutting short this very troublesome complaint, is as true as that to-day rheumatism runs its natural course in spite of any known remedy which has exercised over it any particular specific control.

Recently, however, we have received the announcement of Professor Traube that in fourteen cases reported by Dr. Stricker salicylic acid has been used with such good results, and the effects of the remedy have been so uniform, that the profession has been strongly urged to try it. In the *JOURNAL* of February 10th, Dr. Charles P. Putnam refers to the rapid recovery of a case of polyarthritic rheumatism treated by this drug with striking results. The following case, which has lately come under my observation and treatment, will perhaps serve to verify the usefulness of the new remedy.

Mr. W., a young man, twenty years old, a brakeman on the Boston and Albany Railroad, was taken February 13th with severe pain in the left ankle and top of the foot, attended with great heat and swelling. When called to see the case the following day, I found the patient lying on a lounge, and unable to move the foot without extreme pain. His pulse was 110, his skin dry, his tongue coated. The usual remedies were prescribed.

February 15th. The temperature was higher; the pulse was 120. There was no appetite, and the patient had taken to his bed. The inflammation had extended to both the knees; the foot was somewhat bet-

ter. The patient had had no sleep the previous night. I prescribed sulphate of quinine and Dover's powder, alternating with syrup of lime. Hot applications were made to the joints, and lubrication with camphorated oil.

February 16th. The patient was no better; his pulse and temperature kept up, but he had slept better from the effects of the Dover's powder. The inflammation had attacked the right wrist and the back of the hand with the same amount of pain and swelling as in the foot.

February 17th. The patient was much the same. The pain and inflammation had extended to the muscles of the neck, and the man was unable to move his head from side to side without difficulty. I prescribed one drop of aqua ammoniæ in a teaspoonful of water every three hours.

February 19th. The patient was somewhat better, and continued to improve after this date. He went to work again in about a fortnight from the time he was first taken sick, the disease having run about its natural course.

Less than one week had elapsed before he was taken down again with the same trouble, commencing this time in the other foot, and extending to both knees as before. I was called immediately. The pulse was 120; the skin was hot and dry. The patient was very nervous and fretful; his tongue was coated; his urine was high-colored. Salicylic acid was given, seven grains in wafers every two or three hours, with no other treatment whatever. This treatment was commenced sometime in the forenoon. After the first few doses marked improvement was noticed, and after the ninth dose, sixty-three grains in all, the patient was decidedly better. The skin was moist, the tongue nearly clean, the pulse 80. The inflammation had gone from the foot and knees; the patient's spirits were good; there was no appearance of inflammation in other parts of the body, as before, and he remarked that he felt well enough to get up and go to work.

The above is a single case of acute rheumatism, recurrent within one week, and the results of its treatment by salicylic acid are sufficiently marked. But as these isolated cases cannot be considered an adequate test of the remedy, we shall wait with a good deal of interest to hear the experience of others.

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## A CASE OF ATRESIA VAGINÆ SUCCESSFULLY OPERATED ON.

BY W. SYMINGTON BROWN, M. D., STONEHAM.

STRICTLY speaking, the genital canal extends from the vulva to the distal extremity of the Fallopian tubes, and any part of the canal may be closed, either congenitally or as the result of disease. The labia