

very young pup, and he succumbed very rapidly, the principal attending conditions being acute trophic changes. The third dog experimented on had, at the time when the report was made, survived the experiment for upward of six months and presented well-marked salatoric movements, analogous to those which develop spontaneously in the dog and similar to those occurring in the dog from whom the blood was taken which served for the culture. This third dog presented quite extensive trophic troubles of the skin and nails and general marked muscular atrophy, and at the time when the experimenter made his report the general health of the dog was in a bad way, indicative of near dissolution.

J. C.

VARICOSE VEINS AS A CAUSE OF SCIATICA.

In the number of "*Medicine Moderne*" for May 12, 1892, Quenu states as his opinion that varicose veins are frequently responsible for the production of a severe and persistent sciatica; and in expressing this opinion his experience coincides with the experience of many other neurologists and practitioners who have seen much of this trouble. He cites a case in whom many other measures were tried for the relief of the pain, but without success, until a long elastic stocking, reaching to the groin, was applied, when relief was obtained. In two other cases in which the pain had been intolerable, he dissected the vein away from the nerve, the pain disappeared, and in one case it has not returned for upward of a year; and in the other several months have elapsed since the operation was performed, and there has been no return of the pain. In some cases of sciatica he has found the varicose veins around the nerve and adherent to it. The operation of nerve stretching he looks upon with disfavor and of no great utility.

J. C.

THE NATURE OF HYSTERIA.

Under the above heading Mr. Lim Boon Keng attempts to discuss the power behind the throne in the causation of this ever-interesting disease (*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, April, 1892). Whether he succeeds satisfactorily to himself or not is not known, but it is to be presumed that he does. He finds fault with our present definitions, such as describing it as a neurosis asso-

ciated with defective inhibitory power or caused by a perverted will, and he cannot brook the terms "functional disease" and "general neurosis," because they mean nothing to him. But paradoxical as it may seem, immediately after finding these objections he asserts that mild cases of hysteria may be explained by a functional disturbance of the cortical cells concerned in ideation, especially when associated with neurotic condition. The point which Mr. Lim Boon Keng evidently would like to bring out is that in perverted states of some of the functions of the body there are manufactured within the system certain substances of an alkaloidal nature which, on being absorbed into the system and manifesting their deleterious action on those cortical cells concerned in ideation, cause them to act in a sinister fashion, and in turn other cells or areas of nerve matter in relation with the before-mentioned ideation cells are thrown out of gear with the resulting symptom complex of hysteria. We are in danger of having all diseases, the *raison d'être* of which is yet dubious, explained along these lines within the next decade if the passion for this sort of thing, as lately manifested, does not cease. And to merely make a wild statement and a few visual speculations, as has been done by Mr. Lim Boon Keng, without bringing forward a single fact or semblance of a fact in their proof, does not help along the good cause very materially.

J. C.

THE RELATIONS OF PELVIC DISEASE TO PSYCHICAL DISTURBANCES IN WOMAN.

Dr. George H. Rohé, of Catonsville, Md., pointed out the frequency with which bodily conditions influenced mental states. Thus a torpid condition of the intestines, Bright's disease, putrefactive processes in the intestinal canal, etc., might give rise to melancholia and other disorders of the mental functions. It is not irrational to suppose likewise that diseases of the female sexual apparatus would have a not inconsiderable influence in the production or perpetuation of mental disorders. As a contribution to the knowledge of the subject the following report was submitted.

In a hospital containing 200 insane women, 35 were subjected to vaginal examination and 26 found with evidences of pelvic diseases. In 18 of these the uterine appendages were removed with the following results: