

violent, and which causes the diminution of their calibre, and the consequent pallor and slowing of the circulation; the other vermicular and progressive, acting like all the contractions of this kind, i. e., instead of arresting the progress of the contained substances in the muscular tube, it facilitates their progression as in the intestine.

The augmentation of the peripheral circulation instead of being as in the case of stimulants, a result of reflex paralysis, is caused on the other hand by an increased functional activity of the muscular fibres of the vascular walls.

Without entering into the physiological proofs with which M. Onimus supports his views, we hold that one of the best evidences in its favor is afforded by the anatomical fact that wherever in their tissues the cardiac action is unfelt or much diminished, the walls of the vessels are very rich in muscular fibres. This arrangement evidently indicates that the arterial contractility serves to help the blood along.

Finally, M. Onimus endeavors to show how the theory of reflex paralysis is in contradiction with pathological facts. There is, in fact, a great difference between active and paralytic congestions, in a clinical point of view, and in this relation the theory of autonomous contractions is of all modern physiological theories the one which coincides most nearly with the ideas of Senac and Bichat, who held that the peripheral vessels had an action independent of that of the heart, acting actively in the phenomena of circulation.

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MUTTERING EPILEPSY.—Dr. W. B. Cheadle (*British Med. Jour.*, May 1), describes four cases of a peculiar epileptiform disease, characterized by an attack somewhat intermediate between the transient giddiness of *petit mal* and the fully developed seizure of the true epileptic fit, accompanied with muttering or rapid repetition of the same word or phrase a great number of times. He suggests for it the names eclampsia loquax or muttering epilepsy.

All the subjects observed by Dr. Cheadle were young, though some analogous cases reported by Trousseau occurred in adults. The occurrence of the repetition of the same word or phrase in each, seems to point, as the Doctor remarks, to a special irritative action on that part of the brain concerned in phonation; the coexistence of partial left hemiplegia in one case seemed to indicate a somewhat exceptional condition, as in some reported cases of left hemiplegia with aphasia.

Bromide of potassium caused complete disappearance of the symptoms in two cases, and mitigation of them in another. In the fourth case, an inter-current affection interrupted the treatment, which at the time of writing had not yet been resumed.

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MYELITIS.—We copy the following from a notice of a recent *brochure*, by Dr. E. Clement, in the *Union Medicale*:

Under the name of myelitis, of organic paraplegias, were confounded even very recently all the diseases characterized by lack of motor power which are not of cerebral origin. To-day clinical analysis, the practical