

## PERISCOPE.

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### ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF CEREBRAL LOCALISATION. By Prof. E. Leyden. *Deutsche Medicinische Wochenschrift*, Nov. 24, 1887.

The author after giving an historical sketch of the discoveries of Hitzig and Fritsch, of the observations of Goll and Spurzheim, of the fundamental observations of Broca on the subject of speech localisation (aphasia), calls attention to the work of Munk, Goetz, Exner, and others.

He formulates all the clinical experiences on the subject of cortical localisation into three groups.

1. The first group he calls the aphasic disturbances.
2. The second group represents the localisation of sensory functions, principally of sight.

The most frequent visual disturbance accompanying central cortical disease is homonymous bilateral hemianopsia. Total blindness results if the lesion involve both occipital lobes. In addition to hemianopsia, there is also described a peculiar visual disturbance which has been called "soul-blindness" (*seelenblindheit*). The patient may be able to receive a sensory impression on the affected retinal field, but is unable to form a perception therefrom; "he sees, but he does not perceive." The lesion is considered by Nothnagel to overlie that which produces hemianopsia.

3. The third group comprises the motor cortical centres about the central gyri.

Under this head the author calls attention to the subject

of cortical epilepsy, and reviews Hitzig's experiments and Jackson's observations.

There is nothing new in the entire article, which seems to have been written for the purpose of presenting some of the author's cases which fell under the second and third groups. N. E. B.

AN INDIAN'S BRAIN.—The College of Physicians of Vienna were greatly interested, at a recent session, by the examination of the brain of an Indian. They found the cerebrum inferior to the cerebellum in development, and in the former a tendency to the formation of a convolution in the frontal lobe, which is characteristic of the horse and the ox. —(*Medical News*.) L. F. B.

HETEROPY OF THE GRAY SUBSTANCE OF THE SPINAL CORD.—Kronthal, *Centralblatt f. Nervenheilkunde*, Jan. 15th, 1888.

A plumber, 22 years of age, who had often been treated for lead-poisoning, and who died with cerebral symptoms (hallucinations), had a diseased nervous apparatus which showed the following:

*Muscles* normal, the only deviation being an increase in the nuclei. Radial nerve showed degeneration and dissolution of the axis cylinder and the medullary sheaths; ulnar and median nerves normal. The spinal cord microscopically presented an uncommon appearance. Two parts had a fluid consistency; above and below these appeared a swelling of the cord, which gave the idea that two tumors were present. The microscopical examination showed a very peculiar heteropy of the gray substance.

Evidently there must have been two distinct pathological processes. The signs of an old process were the intense vascular lesions, increase of connective tissue; of a recent process, foci of softening. The ganglion cells were only a little more opaque than usual. At different places the cord presented abnormal clefts and cracks. N. E. B.