

III. That the commissure is composed of two parts. A dorsal portion formed by the crossing of a portion of the posterior root fibres, and a ventral, formed in part by the prolongations of the cells of the anterior horns and of the anterior root fibres. W. C. K.

A Contribution to the Study of the Anastomosis between the Ulnar and Median Nerves in the Palm of the Hand.—

From a careful study of the anastomosis of the nerves of the palm of the hand, Dr. Enrique Tornú arrives at the following conclusions:

I. That the anastomosis between the ulnar and median nerves in the palm of the hand is constant.

II. That the anastomosing branch arises indifferently from the ulnar and median.

III. That its position, direction, length and size are very variable.

IV. That for these reasons it is not possible to give a typical description of this anastomosis as various authors have done.—*Anales del Circulo Medico Argentino*, Dec., 1892.

W. C. K.

• SURGICAL.

Trepanation of the Vertebra in Spondylitis.

—Prof. Kraske, "Med. Chirurg. Rundschau," No. 24, December, 1892. He reports the case of a boy, aged thirteen, who had been operated upon one and one-half years ago, by trepaning the vertebral column, for abscess in the vertebral canal. Paraplegia was, at that time, complete. Three vertebral arches were resected, and a tuberculous abscess with sequestrs of bone was found. The cord was drawn to one side, and after emptying the abscess, by spooning, was returned to its place; normal position and pulsation being obtained. Shortly after the operation the functions of the bladder returned, so that catheterization was no longer necessary; mobility and sensibility returned gradually, and, after fourteen days, improvement was very noticeable. Later, however, depreciation began anew. A supplemental deviation of the vertebral column was treated by extension, with good results. After remaining stationery for some time, the symptoms, have, in the last few months, shown great improvement, so that the patient, whose wound has entirely healed, can go about with the aid of a corset support. Kraske says the number of cases, in which such procedures are applicable, are relatively small, and in those only where compression is not due to acute angle in the

vertebral column, but where it is due to tuberculous exudate in the vertebral canal.

In this direction, Kraske holds the appearance of positive *root symptoms* at the inception of paralysis, of much diagnostic worth; their presence indicates exudation, and is against angular compression. He demonstrated that compression of the nerve roots through kyphotic deviation, cannot take place, and sudden paraplegia may be due to acute curvature.

The operation has, under all circumstances, some weighty doubts, as the primary process in the bodies of the vertebra cannot be made out with any claim to certainty.

Then the removal of the vertebral arches takes away important support of the vertebral column, so that deviation can, and is apt to follow. Going about is only possible with a suitable corset.

Kraske concludes that the operation of resection or trepanation is justifiable, only, when by other treatment the paralysis continues to augment, especially the bladder and rectum.

F. P. N.

THERAPEUTICAL.

Treatment of Sciatica.—In “*Médecin Moderne*,” May 12, 1892, there is an observation by Quenu concerning sciatica. The existence of severe pain due to deep-seated varices is universally admitted. Certain pains in the sciatic nerve are the result of deep-seated varicosities along its course. Whenever sciatica and perceptible varicosities co-exist, the first indication is palliative treatment in the form of external support. In a case cited, pain disappeared for two years with the use of an elastic stocking reaching to the groin. Blisters, the actual cautery, powers of chloride of methyl, etc., had proved unavailing. In conditions of sciatic pain and varicosities, the veins are often adherent to the nerve, exercising direct pressure and inducing neuritis. When the veins are disengaged, pain ceases. In two cases operated upon, this freedom has been maintained fourteen and five months respectively.

L. F. B.

Certain Organic Extracts.—In the “*New York Medical Journal*,” Jan. 28, 1893, Wm. A. Hammond, M.D., publishes a paper on the substances extracted from the brain and other organs, their preparation, and physiological, and therapeutical effects. According to the