

In conclusion I may be permitted again to emphasize my own view. The formulation of the neurone doctrine was the equivalent of applying the doctrine of cell-units to the nervous system. The actual application to the nervous system at so late a date of a doctrine long known and generally appreciated for the other tissues of the body is explicable by the fact that it has been only recently that it has been possible to replace the mistaken conception of the extent of a nerve-cell formerly held by the true conception. If the term "nerve-cell" called up in mind the idea which we now hold of the biological unit in the nervous system there would be no necessity for the use of the word "neurone." But until the textbooks have been expurgated and the nomenclature employed by teachers and writers becomes more precise, some word other than "nerve-cell" would seem necessary. Any one who has the idea of "contact-relation" inseparably connected in mind with the term "neurone" would do well to give up the use of the word and to use "nerve-unit" or "complete nerve-cell" in its place. But for those who have never considered the theory of contact relation as a necessary part of the neurone doctrine, but have regarded the neurone as the unit in the nervous system corresponding to the cells in other parts of the body, the term can be indefinitely retained and even employed with reverence on account of its historical significance.

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- 99 "NEUE BEOBSACHTUNGEN ÜBER DIE VERÄNDERUNGEN DER PYRAMIDENRIESENZELLEN IM VERLAUF DER PARAPLEGIEEN" (New Observations on the Changes of the Pyramidal Giant Cells Occurring in Paraplegia). G. Marinescu (*Deutsche med. Wochenschrift*, May 31, 1900, p. 351).

Marinescu has examined the Rolandic area in six cases of compression of the spinal cord with descending degeneration of the pyramidal tract. The duration of the lesions varied from five months to two years. He found alteration of the cells of Betz in all six cases. Where the spinal lesion had been of short duration the cell-body was swollen, rounded, and presented chromatolysis, chiefly central, and some displacement of the nucleus. In cases of longer duration the lesions were more pronounced, and cellular atrophy was observed. The alteration of Betz's cells occurred from a lesion of the pyramidal tract at any level, but it was greater the nearer the lesion was to the cell-body.

In the study of the motor cortex in a case of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Marinescu found great alteration of the giant cells. Most of these cells had disappeared, and the few remaining ones were very atrophic and showed chromatolysis and displacement of the nucleus. Marinescu leaves it undecided whether these cellular changes were primary or secondary.

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