

## PERISCOPE.

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NOTE ON THE PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY OF THE SO-CALLED ESSENTIAL EPILEPSY. By M. le Dr. Chastin (Journ. des Conn. Méd., March 21, 1889).

The author had the opportunity of examining the brains of five epileptics. Four of them presented lesions which are described under the title of atrophic sclerosis. Macroscopically, the convolutions were shrunken, small, hard, smooth or slightly roughened, and not adherent to the pia mater. This pathological transformation was not uniform over the cortex of the brain; a considerable area was observed to be healthy, according to the brain examined, but the bulb and the cornua Ammonis were always involved.

The microscopical examination of this sclerosis demonstrated that the fundamental lesion was due to the presence of numberless stiff fibres of an undetermined length, which had invaded the cerebral tissue, particularly the gray substance. In the normal state the first layer of the cortex contains a few spider-shaped cells with few visible prolongations. Here, on the contrary, the first layer is formed by a bundle of fibres, whose direction is nearly parallel to the surface of the brain, and which can be distinctly seen originating by hypertrophied prolongations from numerous cells. The author exhibited one preparation in which this change had invaded all the layers, leaving intact, however, the nerve cells and the vessels. The fibres in certain places form in the substance of the cortex a net-work at the nodular points of which neuroglia cells are found. This net-work forms large, compact bundles, which are unquestionably developed from the fibres. The vessels which existed

presented no traces of inflammation; there was, at a few points, a hyaline exudation into the walls of the capillaries. The examination of the motor regions of the brain, which were about as hard as an olive, demonstrated that the neoformation had begun in the neuroglia fibres.

The fifth brain presented no appreciable lesion to the naked eye. Under the microscope, however, in the region of the paracentral lobule, the same neuroglia changes were observed that were found in the other brains.

The author reaches the following conclusions :

1. Certain lesions, described under the name of cerebral sclerosis, are due, in many instances, to proliferation of the connective-tissue, particularly of the fibres of the neuroglia. For these cases the name of *neuroglia sclerosis* or *glioma* was proposed.

2. The induration of some portions of the brain, particularly of the cornua Ammonis and the olives, has been known for a long time in connection with epilepsy. This induration is the external evidence of the internal proliferation of the neuroglia. *When there are no macroscopical lesions, the same neuro-pathological fundamental process can nevertheless be recognized.*

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## THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

HYSTERICAL CHOREA: CRISES CHARACTERIZED BY HYPOCHONDRIA, FOLLOWED BY AN IMPERIOUS DESIRE TO WALK, TO CRY, AND TO SING; CURED BY COPPER USED EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY.

Dr. Moricourt, at the Société Médicale (Journ. des Conn. Méd., April 18, 1889), reports the following case: The patient, a woman fifty years of age, had had these nervous crises for five years, ever since the death of her child. She had been subject for a long time to attacks of migraine, accompanied by nausea, which had diminished in frequency with the advent of the nervous crises. One of her sisters had genuine hysterical attacks. The crises usually came on between two and five o'clock in the morning. They