

Current Literature

I. VISCERAL NEUROLOGY

Lian, and Cathala. VAGOTONIA AND ASTHMA. [Paris Méd., July 10, 1920.]

Twenty-one cases of emphysema subject to frequent attacks of bronchitis with paroxysmal nocturnal attacks of dyspnea are reported upon. In all the oculo-cardiac reflex was more or less markedly positive. Exaggeration of the oculo-cardiac reflex is a very frequent accompaniment of asthmatic dyspnea in bronchitic subjects, and probably of essential asthma, and that therefore asthma may be regarded as a manifestation of the vagotonic syndrome. Belladonna, which acts by paralyzing the peripheral terminations of the vagus, should be given in large doses in asthma, and in cases of emphysema with attacks.

Pese, A. PATHOGENESIS AND TREATMENT OF ENURESIS. [Jahrb. f. Kinderheilkunde, 1920, 91, No. 5.]

Enuresis nocturna was more prevalent during the war. Thirty per cent. of all the small children and 10 per cent. of the older children in a children's clinic at Breslau suffered. Twenty-three small children and eleven older children were exhaustively studied. Enuresis, he concluded, is of two types, the symptomatic and the enuresis connected with the depth of the slumber. This latter form is characterized by its persistence from birth, with slight if any intermissions, the frequent coincidence with constipation, and the fact that therapeutic suggestion has no influence on it. Sedatives aggravate the enuresis, but it can be cured usually by waking the child at intervals before he gets too deep in his slumber plus restriction of intake of fluids.

Wolff, L. VEGETATIVE SYSTEM AS FACTORS IN ULCER. [Hygiea, August 31, 1920. J. A. M. A.]

Wolff refers particularly to gastric and duodenal ulcer as a manifestation of overactivity of the autonomic branch of the vegetative nervous system, saying that Gundelfinger has reported multiple signs of vagotonia in 22 per cent. of 1,200 cases, and Bergmann found very few exceptions in which there was nothing to indicate a loss of balance between the sympathetic and the vagus systems. In Petré and Thorling's 18 cases tested, 8 responded exclusively to pilocarpin and 1 exclusively to epinephrin, while 5 responded alike to both. Wolff's own experience