

leave the sheath of the vagus, but returns to and re-enters the trunk of the vagus. The depressor fibres, however, are somewhat brighter in color than the rest of the nerve. In one cadaver out of six Kreidmann found the depressor nerve to continue for a distance of about 3 cm., as a separate nerve with distinct sheath.

A similar arrangement was found in the dog and sheep.

METALLOSCOPY ON FROGS.—In order to obtain a physiological basis for experiments on metalloscopy, Dr. H. Vierordt (*Centralbl.*, No. 1, 1879) studied the influence of metals externally applied on the sensibility of frogs.

The cerebrum was removed, to prevent spontaneous movements, and the animal fastened in an upright position. A round disc of zinc was applied to the abdomen (in one instance lead was used). The tests were begun fifteen minutes after removal of the hemispheres. The sensibility was tested by touching or compressing a toe of the animal and recording the number of times a reflex movement of that foot, or both feet, occurred. Each animal was tested during periods of twenty-five to forty minutes, alternately with or without metallic application. The figures given show a decided increase of reflex irritability by metallic applications. (The method, however, is very unreliable. A positive or negative result could easily be due to an (involuntary) inequality of mechanical irritation.)

The following papers have also recently appeared on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System:

HURD, The Physiology of Sleep, *Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*, Dec. 26, 1878.—IRELAND, Thoughts Without Words, *Journal of Mental Science*, Jan.—CARPENTER, Effects of Attention on the Bodily Organs, *Brit. Med. Jour.*, Dec. 14.—HOLL, on the Nervus Accessorius Willisii, *Archiv f. Anat. u. Phys.*, Anat. Abtheil., 1878, VI. Hft.—KRONECKER and STIRLING, On the so-called Initial Contraction, *Ibid*, Phys. Abth., 1878, V. & VI. Hft.—VON KRIES, The Physiology of the Sense of Sight, *Ibid*.—BIRDSALL, The Embryogeny of the Sympathetic, *Archives of Medicine*, April.—ARLOING, Determination of the Excitable Points in the Cortex of the Hemispheres of Solipede Animals; Application to the Cerebral Topography, *Revue Mensuelle*, Mar. 10.—ADAMKIEWICZ, On the Physiology of the Sweat Secretion, *Virchow's Archiv*, LXXVIII.—OBERSTEINER, Experimental Researches on Attention, *Brain*, Jan.
