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Scrotal reflex

"If, in children whose scrotum is relaxed, we press the finger upon the inner surface of the thigh, the testicle of the same side is drawn up, in consequence of a reflex action."

Romberg, MH. *A Manual of the Nervous Diseases of Man*, edited and translated by H Sieveking. London: The Sydenham Society, 1853.

RT ROSS

Aphasia

"It is quite necessary to distinguish two different phenomena in the act of speech, namely, the power of creating words as signs of our ideas and that of articulating these same words. There is, so to speak, an internal speech and an external speech; the latter is only the expression of the former."

Bouillaud, JB. Recherches cliniques propres a demontrer que la perte de la parole correspond a la lesion des lobules anterieurs de cerveau. *Arch Gen Med* 1825;8:25.

RT ROSS

Poliomyelitis

"In the year 709 the ANNALS OF ULSTER record: "Pestis Quae Dicitur and **Baccach**, Cum Uentris Profluuiis, in Hibernia". MacArthur' discusses the possible identification of **Baccach**, which he translates as "lameness" in the sense of "weakness or disablement of any limb upper as well as lower". He says "the problem is to name an epidemic disease which might have given rise to numerous cases of paralysis or weakness of limbs . . . I venture to suggest that the **Baccach** of 709 may have been poliomyelitis, popularly called "infantile paralysis", although it is far from being restricted to children. . . . The initial phase of the infection would have passed the understanding of any monk of old, but no one could have failed to observe the trail of cripples left behind.""

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RT ROSS

The myopathies or muscular dystrophies

"It has been shown that the distal type is a true myopathy and distinct from the disease described by Charcot, Marie, and Tooth (peroneal type), which is a myelopathic affection and should not be included under the myopathies."

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RT ROSS