Abstracts.

Neurology.

NEURO-ANATOMY AND NEUROPHYSIOLOGY.


While it is perhaps generally believed that the fibres conveying impressions underlying deep sensibility from the face run not in the trigeminal but in the facial nerve, Dr. Roasenda criticises this view, basing his studies on cases of trigeminal neuralgia submitted to alcoholisation of the Gasserian ganglion. He has tested deep pressure pain, vibration sense, muscular sense and sense of position, employing for the last of these the electric current. In four cases in which superficial anaesthesia was produced by alcohol injection he found simultaneous involvement of deep sensibility in each instance. Further, in three cases of Bell's facial paralysis he failed to discover any alteration in the latter variety of sensation.

Since these conclusions are contrary to those of other observers and since the theory of individual variation is unsatisfactory, it is apparent that fresh investigation is desirable.

S. A. K. W.


This finely illustrated paper is of considerable importance to the neurologist. It shows conclusively that by modern technique the veins of the diploe stand out clearly in X-ray photographs of the skull and that they may often cause misinterpretation. They may easily be taken by the unwary for fractures. Pictures are given, inter alia, of a mass of diploic veins incorrectly diagnosed as a "stellate crack." In cases of intracranial tumour the middle meningeal grooves are often conspicuous for their clarity and breadth.

J. V.


One fore limb, in a series of five goats, was deprived of sympathetic innervation either by sympathetic ramisection after the manner of Royle, or by complete
NEUROLOGY

resection of the cervical sympathetic. Normal posture, gait, and tonus were then repeatedly examined for a month or more. The animals were subsequently decerebrated. At no time was any difference as between fore and hind legs discoverable. Decerebrate rigidity developed simultaneously in the two fore legs, and was equally maintained.

The conclusion is drawn that tonus, as a component of total skeletal muscular function, is in no direct way dependent on an intact sympathetic innervation of muscle. Thus the literature records are almost overwhelmingly in disagreement with Hunter and Royle.

J. V.

NEUROPATHOLOGY.


1. Rats fed on a diet deficient in both vitamin B₁ and B₂ exhibit only slight chromatolytic changes in the ganglion-cells of the cord.

2. Rats fed on a diet deficient in vitamin B₁ exhibit the same changes but to a greater extent for the same duration of life. In addition, when symptoms of paralysis are of long standing, early degeneration may be found in the myelin of the peripheral nerves.

3. The histological changes found in the nervous system of rats fed on a diet lacking in vitamin B₂ consist in swelling and vacuolation of the anterior horn cells of the spinal cord with the deposition in them of lipochrome pigment, a noticeable increase in the surrounding satellite cells, and an increase in the number of y-granules in the peripheral nerves.

These findings bear some resemblance to the lesions of the nervous system in human pellagra, while skin lesions found in the same series of rats resemble very closely those of the same disease of man.

J. V.

[5] A syndrome in the rat resembling pink disease in man.—G. M. Findlay and R. O. Stern. Arch. of Dis. in Childhood, 1929, iv, 105. The experiments brought forward fully confirm the findings of Boas that when dried egg-white is fed to young rats as the sole source of protein there results a syndrome characterised by nervous and cutaneous symptoms. The fact that the same disease may be produced by feeding the mothers on dried egg-white as the sole source of protein suggests that in the drying process some essential dietetic factor is destroyed in the egg-white, rather than that a toxic substance is formed. If the existence of a hitherto unknown dietetic factor is postulated, there is a close analogy with the known occurrence of the deficiency diseases beriberi and scurvy in infants fed at the breast.