

Abstracts.

Neurology.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY.

- [173] **The physiology of the cerebellum** (Contribution à l'étude de la physiologie du cervelet ; la fonction inhibitrice du paléo-cerebellum).—**BREMER.** *Arch. internat. de physiol.*, 1922, xix, 189.

AMONG the conclusions of this interesting paper are the following :—

- (1) The cerebellum (cortex and nuclei) and the red nuclei do not furnish any quota to the rigidity of decerebration.
- (2) In the decerebrate animal electrical excitation of the anterior lobe of the palæocerebellum invariably inhibits decerebrate rigidity. The excitable zones of the palæocerebellum correspond exactly to the terminal areas of the spinocerebellar tracts.
- (3) The latter are divisible into right and left hemi-zones, each inhibiting the extension-contraction of the homolateral limbs.
- (4) Stimulation of the cerebellar cortex has only a minimal effect on the limb flexors—contrary to what is obtainable from excitation of the nucleus dentatus and the superior cerebellar peduncle.
- (5) The efferent inhibitory path appears to be a cerebellorubral (? fastigiobulbar) path.
- (6) In the normal animal destruction of the inhibitory zones of the cerebellum always produces extensor rigidity of the limbs, and in the case of decerebration it enhances the existing rigidity.
- (7) The cerebellum can only furnish its support to the maintenance of muscle tonus by its association with the thalamus and the cerebral cortex.

The cerebellar mechanism of extensor inhibition corresponds to the spinocerebellar anatomical system and is autoregulative in function.

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NEUROPATHOLOGY.

- [174] **A note on the comparative histopathology of acute anterior poliomyelitis and epidemic encephalitis.**—**G. B. HASSIN.** *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1924, xi, 28.

ALTHOUGH distinct morbid entities, acute anterior poliomyelitis and epidemic encephalitis may present a very close similarity in the localization and character of the lesions in the central nervous system. This is well brought out in two examples studied by Hassin, where the histological appearances in the cerebrum, pons and medulla were indistinguishable. Differentiation