Abstracts.

Neurology.

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY.


Dr. Rasdolsky’s theory for the appearance of onehandedness in man—largely, of course, righthandedness—is based on the closer anatomical connection of the heart with the left arm than with the right. He does not entertain the old idea that the left arm protects the heart in the struggle for existence, but holds that movements of the left arm influence the heart’s beat more than do movements of the right, instancing the phenomena of angina pectoris and other cardiac conditions as proving this neural relationship. By experiment on 100 individuals, normal and diseased, he has found that the action of the heart is slowed some seven beats after left arm exercise, and only some five beats after right arm exercise. Further, the heart rhythm returns to normal much more slowly after left arm movements than after right. Thus the author speaks of a normal ‘brachiocardiac reflex.’ Clinically, one might speak of the cardiobrachial phenomena of angina; mention might also be made of the ‘weakness,’ ‘heaviness,’ etc., of the left arm often complained of by patients who have cardiac disease (motor viscero-somatic reflexes).

The corollary of this theory would be to seek the explanation of lefthandedness in an anatomo-physiological relation of the heart to the right arm in certain individuals, but the author makes no mention of this problem, unfortunately.

S. A. K. W.

NEUROPATHOLOGY.


Four groups of experiments on animals are recorded, in which the following conditions were produced: Group I, acute cerebral anæmia; Group II, tetany parathyropepriva; Group III, acute oxalic acid poisoning; Group IV, insulin hypoglycæmia. While the organic disturbances produced probably cause death through their attack on the nervous centres, they cause no consistent structural alterations in the nerve cells, as studied by the methods usually applied to human material.

Emphasis is laid on the fact that our concept of the organic must be large enough to include many processes which do not result in demonstrable