

pressure exceeded 70 mm., it must be considered highly probable that the vascular wall itself, through the diseased process, has undergone an essential alteration, in consequence of which it offers less resistance to the penetration of injection masses, and of red and white corpuscles, than if in a normal condition; a result which entirely coincides with Cohnheim's latest researches.—*Centralblatt*, No. 30, 1874.

A. VOISIN AND V. HANOT, *On Two Cases of Muscular Atrophy observed in the course of General Paralysis*. (*Gaz. Méd. de Paris*, 1874, Nos. 11–13.)—Both of the authors' communicated cases of general paralysis of the insane are characterized by the fact that, in addition to the apoplectic attacks observed in paralytics, an atrophic condition manifested itself in certain muscular territories of the paralyzed side. Measurement and also microscopic investigation (made during life upon small pieces of harpooned muscle) most distinctly proved atrophy. Electrical experiment showed a diminished irritability of the affected muscles (for example, the flexor of the forearm, the sural muscle). One of the cases, which was, however, not submitted to dissection, was accompanied besides by a peculiar alteration of the skin (ichthyosis), and by a transient affection of the knee-joint of the paralytic left side.

The other case was submitted to dissection, and showed in the cervical portion of the spinal cord, less in the dorsal part, but more again in the region of the loins, a moderate thickening of the connective tissue in the lateral and posterior columns, but especially an alteration in the large ganglion cells of the anterior cornua. They appeared partly filled with yellow granules, partly also deprived of all or of many of their projecting processes, and assuming a more or less spherical form; in the latter, nuclei and nucleoli were scarcely to be found. The cells of the posterior cornua were intact. In the medulla oblongata the cells of the hypoglossus nucleus showed themselves altered in a manner similar to those of the anterior cornua. The diseased muscles had a yellow-reddish tinge, were easily broken, and filled with fatty grains; the sarcolemma nuclei were exuberant.—*Centralblatt*, No. 32, 1874.

O. SCHMIEDEBERG, *On the Different Action of Coffein on the Rana Temporaria and the Rana Esculenta*. (*Arch. f. Experim. Pathol. u. Pharmacol.*, 1874, ii. 62–69.)—In the rana temporaria coffein first produces a muscular rigidity, which gradually extends from the point of application to more distant parts, without approaching a state of tetanus. On the second or third day of the poisoning, heightened reflex excitability first sets in.

In the rana esculenta, on the contrary, coffein produces violent and permanent tetanus, and only later is a certain muscular rigidity noticeable, which, however, is never so great as in the rana temporaria. In order to explain this diversity, Schmiedeberg assumes a difference