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## THE "ANNUS MEDICUS," 1877.

Memorable and eventful in the history of Medicine as was the year 1876, no mean successor has been found in the twelve months which have just elapsed. Unmarked by startling discoveries, undisturbed by the fulmination of new doctrines seeking to overthrow the very basis of the Science, it has been remarkable for steady progress and advance, proceeding step by step, ever *excelsior*, guided by the light of reason and certified by the test-stone of experience, "proving all things, and holding fast to that which is good." Purposing to take a retrospective glance over the past year's contribution to our knowledge of Medical Science in its various branches, we do not forget that the subject is a long one (*ars longa, vita brevis*) and the space at our disposal necessarily restricted; we shall therefore enter on our account without further prelude or observation.

### ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY.

In the domain of *Anatomy* and *Physiology* advances have been made, amongst which we note: 1st. In connexion with the nervous system—the series of very laborious investigations and interesting deductions of Messrs. Charcot, Pitres, and Bourdon, of Paris, and Dr. Broadbent of London, on the subject of cerebral localizations, too long to quote. Prof. Langendorff has communicated to the new series of Dubois Reymond's *Archiv de Physiol.* an interesting account of his investigations on the subject of Inhibitory Nerves, the existence of which has been known since the observations of the brothers Weber on the Par-vagus. He establishes that the reflex inhibitory influence of each half of the brain extends over the opposite

side of the body, and that its seat is not only in the *lobi optici*, but also in the cerebral hemispheres. Dr. Tyson of Philadelphia records (*Amer. Jour. of Med. Sciences*, July, 1877) a curious case occurring in his practice, the observation of which fully confirmed the view that the cerebellum is a centre of co-ordination of muscular movement; and another case recorded in Virchow's Archives, by Dr. Kohts of Strasbourg, goes to show that the *corpora quadrigemina* must be added. Flourens' assertion that "the vestibular nerve is a completely distinct pair from the auditory nerve or the *nervus cochleæ*" has been confirmed by the results of Hortaczewski's investigations on the nerves of the internal ear. M. Lays records (*Soc. de Biol.*) a case of compensatory hypertrophy of the right hemisphere found after death in a case of right hemiplegia. During the year M. Duret presented to the *Société de Biologie* drawings and injections exhibiting the very great correlation which exists between the distribution of the arteries and the physiological regions of the brain, and shewing, amongst other things, that a special artery is given off to the third convolution. The last point in connexion with the cerebral nervous system which we have to mention is the investigation undertaken by Duke Charles, of Bavaria, M.D., to refute the assertion of Popoff that white blood corpuscles were found in the brain as the result of typhus and typhoid fevers. He examined fifty brains, and the result was "that in the cortical portion of every brain, healthy or otherwise, are found numerous white blood corpuscles." These may accumulate on account of retarded circulation combined with an increased quantity of water in the brain.