

# RETROSPECT DEPARTMENT.

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## Medicine and Neurology.

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UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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### THE NEURONE CONCEPT.\*

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"In the old, old days of medicine, some ten or twelve years ago," to quote a recent editorial in the *N. Y. Medical Record*, "there were nerve cells and nerve fibres, and these joined in various ways were enough for the Acadian needs of those pre-neuronic times." But during the past decade and a half the more perfect technique of the histologist has been demonstrating an arrangement of nervous tissue which demands a revision in many particulars of ideas previously held, and offers so much more satisfactory an explanation for nervous phenomena than was formerly in vogue, that we feel that our new knowledge is of very great importance. Inasmuch as the journal references to the more recent work in neuro-histology are very meagre, and as few of the text-books provide much information on the subject, I have thought that a brief synopsis of some of the articles to which I have had access might not come in amiss, and have endeavored to construct a short paper, which I trust will prove worthy of your attention.

The first part of the retrospect, dealing principally with the histological side of the subject, is simply a condensation (confessedly not well balanced) of some of the points brought out by Lewellys F. Barker in an exceptionally valuable series of papers which he is contributing to the *New York Medical Journal*. The remaining portion, in which a practical application of the concept is attempted, is likewise a condensation from recent papers by F. X. Dercum in the *Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases* and in the *University Medical Magazine*.

One of the first discoveries which has led up to the present day conception of the structure of the nervous system was that the cell and the

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\*Read before meeting of Nova Scotia Branch British Medical Association, February, 1898.