

nutritive physiological functions, caused by pathological conditions.

There is some difficulty in preparing and preserving lecithine in a pure and active state; this, however, has been overcome by Vial of Paris, by diluting it with oil and administering it in capsules, representing one grain each. By these means the disagreeable taste of lecithine is avoided, and its active properties preserved.

One capsule three times a day with meals is the usual adult dose.

M. Serono, of Turin, has also used subcutaneous injections of lecithine on the human subject.

CREMASTERIC REFLEX IN SCIATICA.

Gibson (*Medical News*, June 15th, 1901) has called attention to a remarkable exaggeration of the cremasteric reflex in cases of sciatica, not alone in those of the more serious neurotic type of the disease, attended with muscular wasting and alteration of the electric reactions, but also in those of the less grave neuralgic variety. The reflex was obtained not only by gently stroking the skin on the inner aspect of the thigh, but also and much more readily by firm pressure over the lower and inner part of Scarpa's triangle, whose sensory nervous supply is derived from the internal cutaneous branch of the anterior crural nerve. The last procedure was in some instances followed slightly later by a less distinct contraction on the opposite and unaffected side. The exaggeration of this reflex was found in cases not exhibiting much increase in the knee-jerk, as well as in others with great augmentation of myotatic irritability. In some instances the plantar and gluteal reflexes were exaggerated equally with the cremasteric; in others the last was marked, while the former were scarcely elicitable. In no instance was the increase in the cremasteric reflex associated with dorsal flexion of the toes on irritation of the sole of the foot. In explanation of the phenomena described it has been suggested that in the presence of sciatica the segments of the cord above the level of origin of the sciatic nerve from the lumbo-sacral cord—including therefore the second lumbar, in which the cremasteric reflex centre and also the knee centre are believed to be situated—are in a state of excessive irritability, while the segments below, in which the plantar, the gluteal, and the ankle centres are situated, are but little if at all influenced.—*Therapeutic Gazette*.