

chloroform and ether anæsthesia, and this may explain in part why the accidents occurring as above described so frequently follow the administration of an anæsthetic. At the same time we must not too hastily conclude that the neuron which has become so prominent lately is to be made the base for everything in neuro-pathology, as apart from the previous explanation of late death after anæsthetics in epilepsy probably, and in Graves' disease certainly, the disturbances of the internal secretions, owing to the irregular and abnormal condition of the thyroid gland, appear to be a true explanation of the difficulty. As regards epilepsy, Ohlmacher has recently published observations showing that in a number of cases at all events enlargement of the lymph glands exists (the so-called status lymphaticus) and often there is persistence of the thymus gland. That these conditions exist in otherwise inexplicable sudden death has long been known and the relation seems, if not proven, at least possible. What seems to be needed at present is the careful working over of pathological material and particularly a careful study along the lines laid down by Nissl, Macallum, and others, of the chemico-pathological changes which are associated with the conditions of nervous disturbance.

In my own laboratory, although a number of observations have been made in this direc-