

lesions have been described as protozoa, etc. (bodies of Guarnieri, etc.). Although careful investigation in no case has been able to prove these claims (including the latest publication about cultivating the vaccine virus), many still adhere to this opinion. Borrel has made a careful and beautiful investigation of the whole question on the most favorable material, and has come everywhere to the conclusion that the so-called parasites are nothing but polynuclear leucocytes, engulfed by the epithelial cells and gradually disintegrated in their protoplasm. The paper is beautifully illustrated, and the pictures are very convincing. That the peculiar formations found in molluscum contagiosum belong to the same category is probable. In a carcinoma that could be inoculated from one mouse to another (Jensen, (in 1902) described a similar inoculable carcinoma in the mouse). Borrel has found, also, inclusions which very much resemble the epithelioid forms, and most likely must be interpreted in the same way. It may be mentioned here that Apolant and Embden (*Zeitschr. f. Hyg. u. Infect. Krankh.*, Vol. 42, Heft 3), from the Ehrlich Institute in Frankfort, have published lately their studies on the cancer-inclusions, in which they come about to the same result—that all of these formations are products of degeneration.—*Interstate Med. Jour.*

The Recognition of Incipient Tabes.

G. Flatau (*Berl. klin. Woch.*) deals with the diagnosis of tabes in the early stages. Referring to the absence of tendon reflexes, he says that the triceps reflex is not only not easy to elicit, partly on account of the difficulty of hitting the tendon cleanly, and partly on account of the difficulty of relaxing the muscle sufficiently, but it has been shown that it is frequently absent in perfectly healthy individuals. With regard to the tendon Achillis reflex, he has found that in 100 persons, who were certainly not suffering from tabes, it was absent on both sides in two cases, and on one side in a further two. In these four patients, the knee-jerks were present, and there was nothing abnormal to be found which could explain the absence of the tendon reflex. In eight of the cases the reflex could not be elicited in the ordinary way, but only could be demonstrated by Babinski's method. Since this method cannot always be carried out, it would appear as if several of the patients had absent Achilles reflexes, and he has come across the same condition in many cases of tabes. Flatau recites the histories of some early cases of tabes, and shows that the diagnosis can be made even when the cardinal symptoms are absent, if one regards the grouping of the signs, however slight they may be. A sluggish reaction of the pupil, an absent reflex, and a very small area of disturbed sensation of themselves will not justify