

tion of the fluid in this disease, but of late it has been seen that the determination of the *kind* of proteid that is increased is a matter not only of diagnostic significance but also one of great theoretic interest in relation to the special substances that are provisionally termed the Wassermann anti-bodies.

The history of the development of our knowledge on the subject may first be shortly related, and the question of technique in examination separately considered. Only the albumin and globulin proteids will be dealt with in this paper. That proteid is a normal constituent of the cerebro-spinal fluid has been known for some forty years. Soon after the introduction of lumbar puncture as a clinical procedure it was found that the amount of proteid is greatly increased (often tenfold) in inflammatory conditions, particularly of the meninges, but that it is increased also in metasphilitic affections has been generally recognised only within the past half dozen years. The discovery that this increase occurs almost constantly in general paralysis was independently made and published on four separate occasions, and it was not until the last of these—seven years after the first—that general attention was called to the observation. Babcock, in 1896, found that the proteid was pathologically increased in every one of twelve cases of general paralysis he examined, and Nawratzki, in 1897, found the same in six cases. Schaefer, in January, 1902, refers to the work of these writers, which he confirmed; he was the first to appreciate the high diagnostic value of the observation. The same conclusion was independently stated in two papers published simultaneously in April, 1903, by Guillain and Parant, and Widal, Sicard and Ravaut. The former of these, in reviewing the literature, referred only to a case of tabes, recorded in 1901 by Achard, Loeper and Lanbry, one each of tabes and general paralysis recorded in the same year by Wolf, and to a statement made by Léri, in 1902, to the effect that there was *occasionally* an increase in proteid in cases of metasyphilis; their claim, therefore, that no one prior to