

for the production of the resonance, for in the other cases there was only moderate distension, and the resonance was neither increased nor produced by artificial distension. He observes also that these cases show that the first sound of the heart or a systolic murmur may have a metallic resonance, while the diastolic sound does not manifest this character. Constancy of the sign is not to be expected; and one or more examinations may fail to detect it, although other symptoms of adhesion of the pericardium are present. When met, however, it is a valuable aid in the diagnosis. Of course, the resonance produced by cavities in the lungs, and by pneumothorax or pneumopericardium, must be excluded.—*British Medical Journal*.

THE ROLE OF THE DURA MATER AND ITS NERVES IN CEREBRAL TRAUMATISM. —(DURET).

RESUME.—The dura mater contains sensory nerves eminently excitable. 1. As is the case with all sensory nerves perhaps, irritative lesions of these nerves cause: (1) pain, hyperæsthesia, neuralgia, and reflex motor phenomena; (2) reflex spasms or contractures of the muscles of animal and organic life. (a) The spasms or contractures of the muscles of animal life may occur in the face, eyeballs, neck, trunk or limbs. They occur sometimes on the one side, sometimes on the other. These symptoms tend to diffuse and to invade neighbouring groups of muscles. They have never the localisation, the measured and purposed character of the contractions which belong to lesions of the cortex. They frequently become transformed into permanent contractions. (b) The reflex vasomotor disturbances, due to irritation of the nerves of the dura mater, consist in spasms or congestive paralyses of the cerebral and ocular vessels, either on the same or the opposite side. These facts are important to pathologists, as they show the great influence of irritation of the nerves of the dura mater on cerebral vascular conditions, and on the organs of sense, and on the causation of secondary effects in cerebral traumatism, i.e., on the congestions and inflammations of the cerebral membranes. 2. Destructive lesions cause local anæsthesia of the dura mater.—*Brain*.

CHANGES IN THE SYMPATHETIC IN A CASE OF PROGRESSIVE PERNICIOUS ANÆMIA.

Dr. Brigidi reports a case of progressive pernicious anæmia, in which the autopsy revealed interesting changes in the celiac plexus, but no fatty change or other lesion in the heart and other viscera. In the fresh state the plexus presented an excessive proliferation of nuclei, so that in many places the nerve-cells were destroyed; in other places these cells seemed pigmented, but were cleared up by the addition of reagents. The blood-vessels were empty. In ganglia, hardened in alcohol, the nerve-cells could only be found in isolated spots; in the greater part of the sections they were replaced by groups of small elements, which resembled nucleoli. From the microscopical appearances, Dr. Brigidi constructs the following chart of the pathological process:—The endothelium lining the capsules of the ganglia began to proliferate abnormally, destroyed the nerve-cells by pressure, and formed granulations, some of which assumed a bronzed or brown colour, while others underwent fatty degeneration. The further this fat development proceeded, the more the nerve-substance disappeared, until finally the proliferation of nuclei persisting, the entire nerve-substance was destroyed, and its debris was found dispersed in the newly-formed nuclear growth. The nerve fibres of the ganglia had likewise undergone fatty degeneration. The empty blood vessels of the ganglia also presented an excessive proliferation and accumulation of the endothelium. Around the ganglia there were thick layers of connective tissue, which was but poorly supplied with nerves.—*Allg. Med. Cent.-Zeit., No. 98*.

INFANT'S FEEDING BOTTLES should not have india rubber tubes, as these become coated with particles of decomposing and fermenting milk. The best kind of bottle is one with a glass nozzle, with a black rubber cap: this can be removed, turned inside out, and cleaned by thorough rubbing with salt after each use.

DOLOR FOTHERGILL.—Nitrite of amyl inhalations proved successful in a case in which all other remedies had failed.