

presents itself in a maximum amount in pneumonia.

THE REFLEXES IN DIAGNOSIS.—If a student, or a junior practitioner who has not forgotten his physiological lore, says *The Hosp. Gaz.*, were asked what would be the effect upon the patellar reflex of severing the spinal cord high up, he would unhesitatingly reply that, according to Kirke, it would be exaggerated. In fact, the idea of the jerk which would result from tickling the sole of a man whose spinal cord had been crushed, has been firmly grafted on one's mind. Well, it seems that after all it is nothing of the kind. According to Dr. Bastian, exaggerated reflexes negative the assumption of a total transverse lesion of the cord, the effect of which he has peremptorily established to be the abolition of the deep reflexes. In this view he was ably seconded by Dr. Hughlings Jackson and Mr. Bowlby, both of whom had facts to adduce in support of the views advocated by him. This is not merely a recondite point in physiology but is possessed of a highly practical bearing in the diagnosis of, and prognosis in, cases of injury to, or disease of, the spinal cord; hitherto exaggerated reflexes have been taken to indicate total cessation of communication between the lumbar reflexes and the brain, now they will have to be interpreted to mean just the opposite. In all cases of total severance of the cord, verified by *post mortem* examination, the reflexes have been persistently abolished, and in no case of exaggerated reflexes has the lesion been demonstrated to be totally transverse. The deduction was an erroneous inference from experiments on the lower animals, in which the relationship of the higher and lower centres is not the same as in man.

COMMON SALT IN FACIAL NEURALGIA.—Mr. George Hesler (*Ed. Med. Jour.*) says that a great many cases of facial neuralgia, as also neuralgia, headache, toothache, and earache may be cured by using powdered sodium chloride as a snuff, a pinch being taken into the nostrils of the affected side, or applied by means of an insufflator. On examination of cases which Mr. Leslie reports, three of facial neuralgia, three of nervous headache, one of neuralgia following herpes, one of neuralgia accompanying glossitis, cephalgia accompanying tonsillitis, and one of bronchial asthma, it would ap-

pear that chloride of sodium possesses wonderful properties for the relief of all pains in the head. We fancy many of our readers will take this statement *cum grand salis*, but the experiment is worth trying.

EXALGINE.—Fraser (*Brit. Med. Jour.*), in the following table, gives the results obtained from exalgine, administered with a view to its analgesic effect. This, he says, is not very powerful; but the drug has the enormous advantage of freedom from the disadvantages pertaining to most other remedies of this class.

	Number of Obser- vations.	Number Success- ful.	Number Unsuccess- ful or Doubtful.
Facial neuralgia.....	8	8	—
Sciatica.....	10	9	1
Herpetic neuralgia.....	10	9	1
Neuralgia of arm, in hemiple- gia.....	11	11	—
Locomotor ataxy, 1st case....	2	2	—
“ “ 2nd case....	1	1	—
Toothache, 1st case.....	2	2	—
“ 2nd case.....	2	2	—
“ 3rd case.....	2	2	—
“ 4th case.....	2	—	2
Cardiac angina.....	2	2	—
Pleuritic pain, 1st case.....	1	—	1
“ “ 2nd case.....	4	4	—
Rheumatic synovitis.....	4	4	—
Blenorrhagic rheumatism....	2	1	1
Gastric pain, cancer.....	2	3	—
“ “ catarrh and cica- trized ulcer..	4	2	2
Cancer in abdomen.....	10	6	4
Carcinoma of liver.....	2	—	2
Aneurysm of aorta.....	4	—	4
Lumbar abscess.....	3	—	3
	88	67	21

PARASITICIDE OINTMENT.—The following is recommended by *L'Union Med.*:

Salicylate of mercury, . . . 16 grains.

Vaseline, 1 ounce.—M.

This makes not only an excellent ointment against the parasitic skin diseases, but against eczema, pityriasis, and syphilitic vegetations.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—In a paper on the “Causation and Restriction of Infantile Mortality,” Dr. Vaughn (*Jour. Am. Med. Assoc.*) states that: 1. One-fourth of the children born in the United States die before they reach the end of the fifth year of life. 2. Derangements of digestion cause more than 50 per cent. of these deaths. This class of diseases may be restricted by proper attention to the food. 3. Infectious diseases are