

trophic cutaneous lesions are bullous or herpetic in character. He thought they must admit from such strong evidence that trophic nerves have a true position not only in physiology but in medicine.

DR. FERRIER of London was of the opinion that there can be no question of the direct influence of the nervous system on the nutrition of the tissues altogether apart from vasomotor changes, and agencies operating *ab-extra*. This is shown, among other things, by the structural modifications which are observed in the glands on stimulation of their secretory nerves; and by the degeneration which ensues in muscles which are separated from the cells of the anterior cornua, or when these latter are destroyed. This degeneration he holds to be the direct result of the severance of the muscles from their trophic centres, and is not due to secondary inflammatory changes, inasmuch as it occurs under conditions which entirely obviates the initiation and propagation of irritation. But he believes with Dr. Seguin that the great majority of the trophic disturbances which so commonly occur in connection with injuries of nerves, such as panophthalmitis from lesion of the fifth, and the herpetic and other cutaneous disorders from lesion of common sensory nerves, are not due to the withdrawal of trophic influence, but are the results of secondary inflammation or injurious agents operating from without. They are observed more especially in connection with partial lesions of nerves and those most calculated to excite irritation. He should, however, expect to find (although he is not aware that the subject has been fully investigated) that section of all the sensory nerves of any given region would induce degeneration of the nerve endings and their annexes, precisely analogous in character to the degeneration which occurs in muscles when the motor nerves are divided, or the anterior cornua destroyed. But the point is, whether these and similar facts are to be regarded as proofs of the existence of a special system of trophic nerves and trophic nerve centres, distinct from those which minister to the general functions of motion (secretion) and sensation, or whether the maintenance of the nutrition of the tissues is merely a different aspect of the