

logical changes in acute anterior poliomyelitis and herpes zoster and conclude that zoster might justly be spoken of as acute posterior poliomyelitis. The unknown toxic agent that is responsible for this affection shows an affinity for the posterior root ganglia, and more particularly for those which contain a preponderance of the smaller type of ganglion cells that give rise to the shorter fibres of the posterior columns. These small cells, amongst other functions, probably subserve that of pain; hence the intense pain of zoster. The skin eruption they believe to be the result of intense irritation of these cells, which normally subserve the function of pain, and more especially that form of pain produced by afferent visceral impulses.—*Medical Chronicle*.

CHOREA DURING PREGNANCY.

E. S. Newell (*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*) thinks that chorea deserves a special place in the pathology of pregnancy. It is not an accidental complication due to the recurrence of a previous infantile chorea, but in the majority of cases appears for the first time during pregnancy, and is to a great extent produced by this condition, although pregnancy alone cannot be regarded as the direct cause. Various conditions such as heredity, previous infective diseases, etc., act as predisposing causes, and some nervous shock is usually the starting-point of the trouble. The prognosis is more grave than in early life. The principal drugs used in treatment are sedatives and alteratives. In grave cases ether and chloroform may be given, as in eclampsia. Pinard gives chloral to produce almost continuous sleep, waking the patient only to administer food. When improvement in the choreic movements appears, the doses are diminished, but are continued until the movements entirely disappear.—*Medical Record*.

TOTAL EXTIRPATION OF THE STOMACH (ESOPHAGO-ENTEROSTOMY).

A. Bardeleben (*Deutsche medicinische Wochenschrift*) reports another case of complete gastrectomy with apparently curative result. The patient, a woman aged fifty-two years, had for a year before the operation been suffering from the usual symp-