

mogastric nerves, the depressor nerve of the heart, the sympathetic nerves, and especially with the great question of independent rhythmic capacity of the different parts of the heart, which must be deferred for comparison, in a later communication, with results obtained by the investigation of the heart of the sea-turtle and other chelonians.

## ON CEREBRAL SYPHILIS.

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*(Read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal.)*

Some cases having recently come under my care illustrating different phases of this disorder, I venture to bring them before this Society, with a few remarks which they have suggested.

The older writers used to ascribe a great variety of disorders of the nervous system to constitutional syphilis: vertigo, epilepsy, apoplexy, amaurosis, etc. They had, of course, no scientific foundation for so doing, but really made a kind of scapegoat of this protean malady in order to explain what was otherwise obscure. Later on, came those who declared that syphilis never attacks the brain or other nervous centres. The investigations of our modern pathologists have, of course, settled this matter, showing that these important organs may, and often do, become the seat of syphilitic disorders. They have also shown in what various ways the different structures entering into the composition of these organs may be subjected to pathological changes, the direct result of syphilitic contamination. They have shown that symptoms of present disorder may be induced by local inflammation of a specific nature, by the invasion of a neoplasm or special new growth, by softening due to the obstruction of diseased vessels, by the interference of a tertiary swelling of the periosteum, or as a result of constitutional disease of the bones themselves. It has been thought, too, that symptoms of cerebral syphilis may be observed whilst the autopsy shows no special changes in the brain. In some such cases, however, careful and experienced observers have shown that histological changes of a sufficiently important character have been slowly developed as a