

that the Gasserian ganglion was the analogue of the posterior spinal ganglia, and that neither the one nor the others interfered with impulses going into the brain or spinal cord. But the ganglia, especially the sympathetic, had been for long credited with a positive function, namely, that of being the *set* of reflex actions. Although, of course, the term "reflex" was not in all cases used, Vieussens, Hermann Boerhaave, Vater, Meckel, and Gasser all believed that nerve-impulses (though they did not employ that term) were turned back towards the periphery at the nerve-plexuses and ganglia. *rite*

Prochaska puts it clearly thus: "Further, it may be asked whether the external impressions made on the terminations of the nerves and passed onwards to the ganglia are extinguished in the ganglia themselves, or whether being reflected there by a fixed law they return again along the nerves to the parts to be moved." Long after sympathetic ganglia were shown to be composed of nerve-cells, the possibility of their being reflex actions was believed in, but Professor Langley, who has gone into this question with considerable care, has come to the conclusion that there is no unequivocal example of a reflex action being carried out through the intermediation of any peripheral ganglia, with the possible exception of the enteric ganglia. *the reflex*

Both the original surmises as regards the ganglia have been shown to be incorrect, they neither block afferent impulses nor do they mediate reflex actions; the prophecies concerning their functions have proved peculiarly unfortunate. Some guesses in science have been subsequently proved right, those as to the sympathetic system and ganglia generally have not been of this order.