

We do not desire to present here a sample of the old debated doctrine on the trophic nerves; but science now possesses a not despicable number of facts which demonstrate that the innervation of an organ presides over its nutrition, and guarantees resistance against disorganizing agents. The most acceptable form in which the question of trophism may be presented by anyone like ourselves in this case, is that which avoids going to the bottom of the question. We should now be engaging in a fruitless work did we affirm either the one or the other of the conceptions by which it has been sustained or upset, but never settled. It may be affirmed, on the basis of a large case history and experimental proofs, that the inflammation or the irritation of a nerve, or of certain centres, is followed by more or less notable trophic changes in the organs innervated by them. Thus zoster (herpes) in intercostal neuralgia; decubitus (bed-sore) in the neurites; lesions of the cornea from alterations and sections of the trigeminus; atrophies in different affections of the central nervous system; cutaneous affections in tabes; fatty degeneration of the testicle from section of the spermatic nerve, &c., &c.

On the other part, we have records of the existence of pulmonary affections from lesions of the central nervous system; the facts were well known long ago by Cruveilhier, and they have since been well studied by Ollivier, Navarre, Durand Fardel and Fabre.

Cases of pulmonitis from compression of the vagus nerve are known. Thus, *e. g.*, a case of aneurism of the aorta recorded by Gull; the patient died of pulmonary gangrene with multiple foci; the aneurismal sac compressed the vagus. Three cases have been recorded by Dessenos, observed in patients with cancer of the œsophagus, which pressed the pneumogastric. Two others are recorded by Eichhorst.

We admit, with Arnozam, that Fabre has gone too far in forming a class of nervous pulmonitis, and that Fernet has erred in believing that frank, acute fibrinous pulmonitis is attributable to hyperæmia of the pneumogastric, merely because he succeeded in demonstrating its existence in three cases. We are unable to attach any very great importance to the coincidence