

in the condition to be absorbed, like any ordinary drink, and brewed in the best manner. Cider, even in Normandy, is frequently improperly made—but it would seem that bad cider is not worse than bad wine. The writer, using the precaution to declare that he is not of Normandy, goes on to say, with the effusion of a Frenchman, that, if the results of Dr. Denis-Dumont are admitted, they will furnish cause enough for the encouragement of plantations of apple-trees, and for the fabrication of a beverage which laughs at phylloxera, which has been served on the table of a Queen of France, to Saint Radegonde; which Charlemagne did not despise; which was celebrated after the epic mode in a Latin poem dedicated to the glory of Philippe-Augustus by Guillaume le Breton, and which François the First appreciated on his visit to Normandy.—*Md. Med. Jnl.*

THE MODE OF PRODUCTION OF THE TENDON REFLEX.—Jendrassik has made a number of experimental studies of the various conditions which are necessary for the presence or absence of tendon reflexes, particularly for the patellar reflex. The following conclusions express the most important of his results:

1. The “knee phenomenon” is a true reflex action, brought about by the mechanical irritation of the nerves situated in the patellar tendon. It is not necessary that the stimulus should be applied at the junction of muscle and tendon: stimulation of the part of the tendon lying farthest from the muscle is equally efficacious.

2. For the production of the reflex muscular contraction it is necessary that the muscle be passively extended: to a certain degree the contraction of the muscle is proportional to the stretching to which it is subjected.

3. Voluntary innervation of the crural nerve diminishes the patellar reflex, or may prevent its appearance altogether. Contraction of the muscles innervated by the sciatic nerve, however, instead of preventing rather favours the development of the patellar reflex.

4. The path of the reflexes lies in the spinal cord only in the gray matter. Lesion of the white columns cannot directly be a cause of the absence of the reflex.

5. Physiological increase of the tendon reflex is also produced by contraction of

the other body-muscles: thus, simultaneous lifting of weights, or strong stretching of muscles, increases the reflex.

6. In the majority of cases pathological increase of the patellar reflex may be regarded as the result of an interruption of the conduction of inhibitory impulses from the brain to the spinal cord.

7. The author does not regard the “foot phenomenon” as a reflex, but rather as a tonic contraction, directly produced through the mechanical stimulus given in the sudden stretching of the soleus: the irritability of the muscle must therefore be increased.

In five instances severe stretching of the crural nerve in rabbits left the patellar reflex unaltered.—*Phil. Med. Times.*

OLIVE OIL AND GALL-STONES.—The *North Carolina Medical Journal*, commenting on the nature of the bodies discharged after a large dose of olive oil, reports a case of a man who was suspected of having gall-stones. A full dose of sweet oil was given and brought away about one ounce and a half of bodies of various shapes and sizes. Some were of a greenish colour, others brown, and others white. They were of the consistency of wax, were soluble in olive oil, in alcohol, and were inflammable. In a few days they melted down into a semi-fluid mass. With nitric acid and ammonia they gave the red reaction of cholesterol. Dissolved in ether and evaporated, white crystals resulted. Assuming that the chemical composition of these bodies is known, does the large amount of cholesterol indicate that these bodies are biliary calculi or enteroliths—will olive oil bring the same masses away from any one whether he has been suffering from biliary colic or not? If they are not biliary calculi what are they? Pure cholesterol is not known to exist in any other discharges from the bowels than the two bodies above mentioned. In olive oil there is scarcely more than a trace, and it is not known that there is any substance in the intestinal canal which, combining with olive oil, is capable of producing cholesterol. The editor trusts to make fuller investigations on the subject.

OINTMENT FOR INTERCOSTAL NEURALGIA:—

R Veratrine 10 Centigr.
Muriate of Morphia 10 Centigr.
Cold Cream 5 Grammes.

M. S. A.—Rub the part affected once daily with a piece as large as a pea.—*Lyon Méd.*