

to supply the needful covering. Dieffenbach has, moreover, demonstrated the plan by which the encroachment of the fork of the fingers may be effectually averted, but the author has failed to notice it.

The subject of strabismus is obviously foreign to the author, and his estimate of the operation falls notably below the mark of reality. No surgical procedure has been raised to an equal degree of accuracy and perfection. The failures of clumsy operators cannot be admitted as standard results. However, we think with the author that proper optic gymnastics should oftener be resorted to, more especially in cases of strabismus that have grown out of bad habits.

The article on perverted, excessive, or diminished nervous action is diligently compiled, and comprises the views of some of the most prominent neuro-pathologists whose language has been accessible to the author. New points of practical interest are not set forth. The subject is left precisely in *statu quo ante*. The theory ascribed to Barwell, and adopted by the author, that the waste of contracted muscles is due to compression of the capillaries, is obviously fallacious; for not only the muscles concerned in the contraction are wasted, but the various parts of the affected region or extremity participate proportionally. In wry-neck, for instance, the affected side of the face is greatly attenuated, whilst the sterno cleido-mastoid alone may be in a state of contraction. If the trouble concerns but a single group of muscles of an extremity, we find the connective tissue and its adipose complement much diminished: even the growth and development of the bones is prejudiced, as a comparison discloses. In all contractions the action of the vaso-motor nerves is undoubtedly compromised whether their origin be central or reflective; a mere mechanical explanation is inadmissible.

The author quotes at some length Brown-Sequard and Matteucci without arriving at conclusions warranted by the logic of their experiments. In cramps excited by central irritation, tenotomy, or approximation of their attachments relaxes the affected muscles; whereas elongation causes pain and moreover renders them proportionately susceptible to galvanic excitation. The author infers (page 35) that "the division and extreme sudden extension of the tendons and muscles obviates the pain," and therefore tries to establish "the extension" as a therapeutic axiom in the treatment of deformities arising from such sources. We readily admit that extension has its therapeutical value, but it can never aspire to be substituted for tenotomy and myotomy. In moderate spastic contraction of short duration it may suffice, and in such cases every rational and well-informed practitioner resorts to extension in preference to division of the muscles; but in aggravated cases extension i