

ACUPUNCTURE.—At a sitting of the section of surgery in the French Academy of Medicine, Mr. AUGMENT briefly related the case of an officer on whom acupuncture was performed for the relief of pains which had resisted all other means. The first needle was introduced two finger's breadth from the umbilicus, and caused severe pain. A second needle was inserted at the same height, and along the inner border of the rectus muscle; the second puncture was scarcely made before the patient fainted; and when he recovered he complained of tormenting pain, which was soon accompanied by fever, and a distressing heat in the region of the abdomen. This state lasted several days, and when it had yielded to an antiphlogistic treatment, the original disorder had not suffered the slightest diminution.

Professor PELLETAN FILS has published a notice of the theory and effects of acupuncture, from experiments made at the hospital Saint Louis. It results from his observations that he has seen acupuncture practised with success; 1st. in violent neuralgia; 2nd, in rheumatism; 3d, in accidental contusions and anomalous pains; 4th, in chronic affections.

STRUCTURE OF THE NERVES.—M. Bogros has succeeded not only in injecting, with quicksilver, the neurilematic tubes, which contain the nervous medulla, but in demonstrating that the medullary matter itself possesses a tubular arrangement. Thus, by inserting the point of his injecting tube into the centre of a nervous fibril, after having corroded and removed the neurilema, with nitric acid, he was able to pass the quicksilver through all the minute anastomosing fibres of which the nerve is composed. These unite their cavities at the places of anastomoses. Ganglions were injected, and then traversed by the fluid metal; the latter filling other nervous fibres after passing through them. M. Bogros passed mercury, from the inferior cervical nerve, into the cardiac plexus, through ganglions of the great sympathetic, through the ganglions at the roots of the spinal nerves, &c. In these last, the mercury entered the veins: insinuating itself, first, into the minute venous plexus, which lies between the proper substance of the ganglion, and the coat which they derive from the dura matter. It thus ran in one instance, as far as the heart; but was never found in the arteries or lymphatics. After leaving these ganglions it passed into the roots of the nerves, and then immediately escaped into the spinal cavity; whether through ruptures or natural openings, could not be ascertained.

From the little we have seen of this discovery, we should presume these cavities to be similar to the ventricles of the brain.

SEMIDECUSSATION OF THE OPTIC NERVES.—Dr. Adrw. Crawford, of Winchester, has published in the London Medical and Physical Journal, an account of a case confirming the observations previously published by Dr. Wallaston, on the effect of a palsy of the optic nerve, above its semidecussation. A female had a slight hemiplegic attack on the left side, accompanied with total loss of