Histology.

lamina, upon which some (Jores) have laid so much stress, as being the chief characteristic of arteriosclerosis, is not alone confined to this lamella, but similar changes are to be noted in the elastic fibres of the media in arteriosclerotic processes or in old age. To this I shall refer again.

To the outer side of the internal elastic lamina lies the media, a definite structure, well defined on both its inner and outer borders. As the internal elastic lamina bounds the media on its inner side, so the external elastic lamina or Henle's membrane forms its outer boundary. There is this difference, however, that whereas the intimal elastic lamina is normally made up of a single strand, the external lamina may be composed of one or more elastic bands, all of which do not run in the same direction. In the vessels of the elastic tissue variety it is difficult to denote any particular strand of elastic tissue as the external limiting membrane, save that the first elastic layer lying beyond the outermost of the circularly disposed muscular fibres is to be considered the membrane in question, or in other words, the external elastic lamina is the last of the concentric bands of the media. On its outer side, the lamella usually shows a number of offshoots which go to make up the scattered elastic fibres of the adventitia. The external lamina is seldom more prominently defined than any of the other elastic bands of the media; and hence can scarcely be looked on as an individual structure.

The media of these vessels shows the characteristic alternating layers of elastic fibres and muscle bundles. These elastic fibres differ in no way from the internal elastic lamina of these vessels, save that whereas the internal elastic lamina normally sends off few if any ramifications, the elastic elements in the media, although concentrically arranged give off connecting bridges of elastic tissue which weld the tunic into a more compact structure. There are usually from forty to sixty of these elastic rings separated by intervals of 10 to 20 microns.

We have now come to recognize the importance of the elastic elements in the structure of the arteries. In them, we find that the nature and disposition of the elastic fibres varies with the changing function of the vessels. In the main it might be said that where strength and resistance are required in the circulatory system, there