

to have been previously tested among the cold-blooded animals. As the results of my experiments in 18 cases, it may be stated that—1st, Section was followed by no cardiac acceleration in seven cases. 2nd, There was slowing (perhaps owing to mechanical stimulation of the nerve by the section) in four cases. 3rd, There was slight acceleration in three cases (*e.g.*, 26 to 28). 4th, Moderate acceleration followed in one case. 5th, Very marked acceleration in three cases.

The most decided acceleration (8 to 20) was in a case in which the previous R. had been slow and irregular. The true state of the case may be inferred from the following extract from the original paper :

“When the rhythm is fairly or very rapid, and the cardiac action regular, section of one or both vagi may be followed by no acceleration or only very slight acceleration; but if the rhythm be slow, and the heart's action very irregular, the acceleration may be considerable.”

The evidence for impulses *constantly* descending the vagi and retarding the heart's rhythm or keeping it slower than it would otherwise be but for the vagi, etc., it will be seen, is not, so far as the cold-blooded animals thus far examined are concerned, very strong; but, under certain circumstances, such does seem to be the case.

The general action of the vagus and the explanation of the same will be next considered.

(To be continued.)