

as schemata seems to us valuable and stimulating to clinical observation. The whole domain of visceral neurology should from now on be cultivated with more fruitful results, now that we begin to understand the relations of the viscera and their innervations to the central nervous system on the one hand and to the hormones arising in the endocrine glands in the other. In the pharmacodynamic tests we have, to use Januschke's fine image, tuning keys by means of which we can operate upon the complicated stringed instrument of the body, and voluntarily make one string tighter to increase its vibrations, or another looser to dampen its function.

Our studies lead us to agree with those who urge that the conception of vagotomy be not too rigidly defined; we must be prepared to meet with exceptions as yet difficult to explain, and with deviations from the pharmacodynamical reactions which might be expected. Certain of the hormones may be less elective than the physiologists have taught us to believe; thus the occurrence of vagotonic signs mixed with sympatheticotonic signs in the forms of Basedow's disease accompanied by outspoken psychic disturbances (von Noorden, Jr., and others), demand more careful study. As Higier wisely remarks, the new conceptions of vagotomy and sympatheticotomy will doubtless undergo evolution like the majority of clinical conceptions in neurology. We can, nowadays, make a diagnosis of tabes, Basedow's disease, Parkinson's disease, or of multiple sclerosis, even in the absence of one or more of the original pathognomonic signs, or cardinal symptoms, described by their discoverers.

For therapy, as well as for diagnosis, clinical men will do well from now on to give due consideration to disturbances of the visceral nerves. In no part of internal medicine can more be expected from pharmacotherapy; we have at our disposal a host of agents—nicotine, atropin, pilocarpin, physostigmin, colchicin, adrenalin, cocaine, ergotoxin, calcium, to mention only some of them—which have already been shown to act more or less electively; may we not hope that our clinics may find out how effectively to use them and others still to be discovered, in regulating the functions of the visceral nerves in at least many of the instances when they are disturbed?

REFERENCES.

Gaskell—On the structure, distribution and function of the nerves which innervate the visceral and vascular systems. *J. Physiol.*, Lond., 1886, vii, 1.