

opinion that all parts of the vessel wall containing muscle elements belong to media, and v. Ebner points out that there is no sharp division between the intima and media. He is, therefore, inclined to side with the histological subdivisions given by Donders and Jansen.

It is evident that this view is incorrect as has been pointed out by Westphalen and Remak. The coats of the arteries are to be distinguished rather by the direction of the fibres than by the actual elements they contain.

This internal elastic lamina, which bounds the inner side of the media in all arteries, exists in varying quantities, and is often difficult to distinguish from the other elastic lamina present in the media. In vessels of the elastic type, the internal elastic lamina is but the innermost of many lamellæ, which are present in the media. In young individuals this innermost lamella presents no difference from the ordinary elastic rings in the media and lies close underneath the endothelium, with but a few connective tissue cells between it and the endothelial layer of the intima. In adults, however, where the intima has gained in thickness, the internal elastic lamella, too, becomes more prominent and presents a definite boundary zone between it and the media. This increase—it may be the growth of the elastic tissue in general—can be observed with increasing age.

In a child up to three years the internal elastic lamina of the arteries of the elastic type presents a narrow band-like appearance, identical with its neighboring bands in the media. Its characters are the same, and it is of the same size as those in this tunic. At this age it is to be noted that the elastic bands show no branching or splitting of their substance. This branching does, however, occur as age advances. At the age of twenty, the elastic strands have become perceptibly thicker and have sent out a large number of thread-like elastic elements into the neighboring muscle tissue, and this increase in size and number of elastic fibres progresses steadily with age. The process of increase is not confined to the elastic elements of any one part of the vessel, but can be followed in any one of the tunics.

I should like to note here that the splitting of the internal elastic