

conclusion. During sleep there is an activity of certain parts. We have, for instance, contraction of the pupils, falling of the eyelids, contraction of palpebral orbicular muscles, contraction of the internal and superior recti, etc. As these phenomena are inhibitory, he considers also the loss of consciousness, the slowing of the pulse, and respirations as inhibitory.

This explanation of the phenomena that attend sleep is certainly more likely than that advanced by Preyer and others to account for them, on the ground that the cerebral cells are poisoned by the products of their own work. In a future article we intend referring to this subject, especially in connection with the subjects of toxic sleep and hypnotism.

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—Hæsslin (*Munchener Med. Woch.*) has found concentric limitation of the field of vision in neurasthenia and other functional neuroses. He suggests the presence of such limitation as a test to distinguish between real and feigned symptoms following traumatism.

—In a recent lecture (*Le Bulletin Médical*) Charcot referred to some cases of exophthalmic goitre under his observation, where a slight degree of paraplegia was present. In its origin this paralytic condition resembles closely the "giving away at the knees" so frequently complained of by tabetic patients. Owing to its frequency, Charcot is inclined to look upon it more as a symptom than a complication of exophthalmic goitre.

—M. Edgard Hirtz says that in the immediate neighborhood of patches of urticaria a capillary pulse can be readily noticed after gentle pressure on the skin. He looks upon this sign as a proof of the vaso-motor origin of urticaria. A capillary pulse has, however, been noticed by other observers around the pustules of smallpox and in the vicinity of patches of erythema.

HYGIENE IN ITALY.—Travelling in Italy is not without its dangers. The land of poetry and art seems also the home of disease and dirt. Two very unpleasant visitors are at present there—smallpox and cholera. There has been great neglect in vaccination, especially in the northern provinces and islands. The vaccine lymph supplied has been of very poor quality,