

F. P. HENRY. *Month. Cyclop. and Med. Bulletin*, June, 1908.

Arterio-sclerosis is not a disease *per se* of age; there are many toxins which may cause hypertension. Is hypertension itself a cause? In favour of this view (1) adrenalin causes experimental arterio-sclerosis; (2) In arterio-sclerosis, the adrenal is often hypertrophied; (3) The removal of the thyroid and ovary, depressive organs, allows arterio-sclerosis. Regarding the first of these, Waterman (*Virchow's Archiv.*, Feb., 1908), found that when hypertension was prevented by the simultaneous use of amyl nitrite, the adrenalin caused arterio-sclerosis all the same. Josué considers that hypertension is not necessary to arterio-sclerosis, but its presence is a valuable corroborative sign. J. McC.

OTOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF DR. BIRKETT.

An examination into the condition of the vestibular apparatus in a series of cases of deafness of non-suppurative origin. Norman H. Pike, M.B., B.S., London. *Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology*. November, 1908.

The total number of cases examined was seventy-four, all of which were suffering from a high degree of deafness in one or both ears. The examination of each case was conducted after the method of Barany, of stimulating the vestibular apparatus, and observing the resulting nystagmus.

The turning and caloric tests were employed to elicit the nystagmus.

The subjective symptoms, such as vertigo, nausea or vomiting, seemed to depend more on the temperament of the individual than the condition of the vestibular, for vertigo was noticed when the vestibular irritability was normal, increased and diminished. Where, however, one, or both, vestibular apparatuses did not functionate there was no disturbance of equilibrium. Two classes of cases, viz., brain tumour and congenital syphilis are deserving of special notice. In all ten cases of brain tumour the vestibular irritability was diminished on the same side as the tumour. The importance of these findings lies in the application of Barany's test as a further aid in the localization of brain tumour.

All the cases of congenital syphilis, seven in number, showed a diminished, or absent, irritability of the vestibule. That there was in congenital lues "such a constant obliteration of the labyrinth was up till now not known."

In the total seventy-four cases of non-suppurative deafness that were examined, the vestibular irritability was normal, or increased, in thirty-nine, and impaired or not functioning in thirty-five. J. T. R.