

INTRA-CRANIAL TUMORS AND THEIR LOCALIZATION.

In a paper read in the course of last year by Dr. Putnam, of Boston, before the New York Medical Association, attention is directed to the value of the commencement of a convulsion as an indication of the position of the exciting cause of the fit. He starts with the Jacksonian dictum that, given an irritation of the arm or leg area, the attack is most likely to begin in the thumb or fingers in one case and in the toes in the other, these parts being the most highly specialized or the most lately evolved in their respective limbs. Considerations are urged by Dr. Putnam which are really corollaries of this proposition. They refer chiefly to the occurrence of convulsions in the limbs as effects of tumor at some distance from the limb areas. Particular reference is made to one case published by the author, in which he himself witnessed a convulsion of several minutes' duration, occurring at the shoulder, and unattended by loss of consciousness. This, however, was the only attack witnessed, although (according to the history) there had been others of a more general character, and it was not considered to furnish sufficient justification for operating. Had an operation been performed, with the indication afforded by the occurrence of this convulsion, the tumor would have been found, for it lay at the posterior end of the middle frontal convolution, and had rolled over the upper edge of the hemisphere toward the falx cerebri, strongly compressing the intervening parts. To sum up, the author concludes that the following list indicates approximately the liability to convulsion by irritation in the neighborhood: (1) Hand, (2) face, (3) toe and foot, (4) elbow, (5) leg, (6) shoulder, (7) trunk, and, conversely, convulsions limited to or commencing in the parts mentioned in the end of the list would furnish much more reliable indications for localizing the irritation than convulsions starting in the hand or face. A similar line of argument is pursued with regard to indications afforded by speech derangement, comprehension of speech in this relation being regarded as the less specialized or evolved condition, and therefore as furnishing by its disturbance a more reliable guide in localizing a lesion than is afforded by disturbance of the more highly specialized power of expression.—*London Lancet*.

EPILEPSY.

The most satisfactory results are obtained by combining the bromides with some vegetable agent of producing cerebral anemia. The combination also tends to produce tolerance. Among the best agents are the calabar bean, belladonna and cocculus indicus or their active principles, combining the bromides tends to pre-

vent bromism, while it increases their physiological action; and while the potassium salt produces diarrhoea the sodium constipates. A very good formula increasing the salts as required is:

R.	Brom. of ammonium,	grs. v.
	Brom. of sodium,	grs. v.
	Brom. of potass,	grs. x.
	Tinct belladonna,	gtta x. M.
	Aromat Elix.,	ʒii.
	Aquæ puræ,	grs. ʒi.

Sig. Three times a day.—*Kansas Med. Jour.*

THE ETIOLOGY OF ACUTE SUPPURATION.

An interesting review of Steinhaus' exhaustive work on this subject closes with the following paragraph, which is of surgical interest:

"That, so far as our present knowledge is to be relied upon we are justified in believing that suppuration in the living tissues is the result of some certain chemical action, which may be combined with the presence of bacteria, or may be obtained from pure chemical substances without the presence of micro-organisms."

Whether this is merely of theoretic interest or not, and that practically in clinical work all suppuration is due to microbes, is still a question unanswered. It is of especial interest in regard to cold abscesses, whose pathology is still unsettled. Steinhaus also claims to have demonstrated that the action of the same micro-organisms varies greatly in different animals, thus explaining many apparently contradictory experimental results.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Jour.*

TREATMENT OF CHRONIC ENDOMETRITIS.

Philippeau treats this disease by drainage and the application of mild caustics and astringents to the endometrium. Tincture of iodine is to be preferred, although iodized phenol may be used at the beginning. Both of these remedies should be applied by means of an applicator armed with cotton, which is allowed to remain in the uterine cavity for a minute or longer and then carefully withdrawn, so as not to displace the eschar in process of formation. A tampon of cotton impregnated with tannin and iodoform may now be placed against the cervix and the application is complete. The patient should remain quiet the rest of the day; remove the tampon the following morning, and immediately afterward take a vaginal injection of water at a temperature of 45° C. [113° F]. These applications of iodized phenol should be repeated every 4 days until the uterine discharge nearly or quite ceases, when tincture of iodine should be substituted for it and continued for several weeks or even months. Injections should never be employed. A 50 per cent. solution of zinc