

velum interpositum. The vessels of this infolding of the pia mater with the choroid plexuses are then to be noticed. The fourth ventricle can then be opened by cutting through the centre of the cerebellum from above downward, the same cut passing first between the corpora quadrigemina on either side and opening the iter.

The internal structure of the cerebrum is then examined by making sweeping cuts from before backwards through the cortex and white matter, downwards to the lower border of the basal ganglia, each section exposing the whole surface of the brain at its own level, the slices being about one-third of an inch thick. The crura are then cut through, and the cerebellum, pons varolii and medulla separated from the cerebrum. A median section is then made through the pons and medulla, and afterwards transverse sections (though some prefer to make the transverse cuts alone) about one-twelfth to one eighth of an inch apart.

The cerebellum is examined by similar cuts, either transversely or vertically made.

The natural sequence in the autopsy is to next examine the spinal cord, though as a matter of practice this examination is postponed until the last, and, as before said, is only occasionally carried out in medico-legal inquiries when the cause of death is obscure and where the organs have to be preserved for analysis, or in pathological work when no organ should be ignored. To take out the spinal cord the body is placed on its face, with a block under the chest in order to throw the head down and forwards, and to arch the back. A median incision is then made through the skin from the base of the skull to the lower lumbar region, and the tissues cut close to the line of the spinous processes as far down as the laminæ. These are then sawn quite through, the saw being directed a little obliquely inwards, until the bony canal is reached. It is important to saw these bones through completely, taking care to avoid injury to the cord itself. By this process the removal is materially expedited, and there is less chance of the destruction of the tissues internally, which might be the result of the use of forceps or chisel.