

It is *increased* in neurasthenic patients with augmented cutaneous reflexes in general; in transverse myelitis situated high up in the cord and, finally, in anatomical neuroses with increased functions of the sensory nerves;

It is *decreased*, respectively, extinguished in multiple neuritis, with extension of the process to the sacral plexus; in tabes dorsalis with disturbances of the organs of the true pelvis and with more or less pronounced anæsthesia of the anal region; in myelitis of the lower segment of the lumbar cord, which is most frequently combined with anæsthesia of the rectum, anus and urethra;

It is *normal* in functional neuroses of the bladder, respectively, those involving evacuation of the bladder; in neuroses of defecation and of the genital organs.

F. H. P.

MITRAL STENOSIS AND HYSTERIA.

Girandeau thinks that he has observed more or less grave hysteric phenomena in men who have for years, and perhaps since birth, suffered from mitral stenosis. This peculiarity he does not regard as striking, but ascribes it to a congenital weakness of the nervous system. These individuals present, also, other signs of congenital anomalies of development.—(Norsk Magazin for Sægevidenskaben, No. 7, 1891.)

F. H. P.

INTESTINAL ATONY AND BASEDOW'S DISEASE.

A recent number of the "Deutsche medicinale Zeitung" refers to the researches of Dr. S. Federn in this direction. He finds that atony of the bowels, especially of the large intestine, a condition frequently overlooked, is accountable for many of the ailments of the nervous system now attributed to other or unaccountable causes.

The condition is one which depends more particularly on a disturbance of digestion, as manifested by an intestinal catarrh, similar to the nasal catarrh due to polypos. That to this cause can be laid cardiac asthma, neuralgias and other neuroses there can be no doubt. He has found that Basedow's disease is in some instances directly traceable to intestinal atony. It is a disease due to irritability of the central nervous system resulting from disturbance in the function of some peripheral organ, generally of the intestines. This functional disturbance reacts upon the sympathetic and in turn upon the central nervous system.

If this as a cause of the disease is recognized the prognosis need not necessarily be a grave one. The author has had several cases of Basedow's disease under his care which he has cured in the course of two months treatment by massage and faradisation. In each of these cases he was able to trace the existence of intestinal atony, which indicated the treatment.

B. M.

LEAD PARALYSIS.

"Virchow's Archiv." Bd. cxx., Hft. 2, contains a pathological study of the nerves and muscles in this disease, by H. Eichost, notice of which appears in the "Centralblatt für klinische Medicin," No. 25. In recent cases examined by Meyer and Moritz alterations were found in the intramuscular nerves and muscular fibres, but the spinal cord was found intact. The case specially reported was one of double extensor paralysis. Autopsy showed œdema of the brain, chronic lepto-meningitis of the brain and cord, with adhesions of the pia and dura throughout. Histological examinations of the nerves showed changes in the radial nerves and an abundance of nuclei in the white substance of Schwann and an almost entire destruction of the axis cylinder and medullary sheath. There was also considerable thickening in and around the blood vessels.

The question as to whether the peripheral degeneration was primary or secondary still remains unanswered, although the author offers the theory that perhaps the muscles and nerves succumb to the toxic influence simultaneously and that after a variable length of time the alteration or degeneration in the cord takes place.

B. M.

BRAIN SYPHILIS.

To properly study this subject, and its therapeutics, Prof. B. Tarnowski says that greater care must be taken in the selection of cases than hitherto. That the wide application of syphilis as a cause for almost all nervous diseases is misleading and that unless a close following out of certain lines is adopted confusion is sure to follow as to whether the case was one of syphilitic origin or not.

In a paper read before the Congress of Russian Physicians, "Neurologisches Centralblatt," this author says that his plan, before making a diagnosis of syphilis of the nervous system, is, first to exclude all cases which give doubtful histories and all those in which the symptoms are aggravated by the mercury treatment. The two nervous