3. During narcosis, the electrical excitability of the flexors decreases in inverse proportion to the degree of narcosis.

4. The crico-arytenoid muscles are extensors, the muscles closing the glottis are flexors.

5. The extensors possess a greater resistance to the effects of ether and chloroform than the flexors. **Michael.**

SAVILL, T. D.—Hysterical Aphonia in a Woman aged Seventy-one—Recovery—Remarks. *Lancet*, August 18, 1888.

THE affection was due to adductor paresis, and was cured by external use of faradism. There was nothing noteworthy in the case except the age of the patient. **R. Norris Wolfenden.**

LOEB (Frankfort-on-Maine).—**Some Remarks on Enlargement of the Thymus Gland in Young Children.** *Deutsch. Med. Woch.*, No. 54, 1888.

THE author records the cases :—

1. Of sudden death of a girl, three months of age. The autopsy proved merely an enlargement of the thymus.

2. Of a boy, seven months of age, who had a laryngismus stridulus, and died from catarrhal pneumonia. Notwithstanding the pneumonia to be situated on the left side, a few moist sounds were heard on the opposite side. The autopsy revealed enlargement of the thymus gland. **Michael.**

BRAMWELL, H. R. (Harlington).—**An Anomaly in Stammering.** *Lancet, February* 4, 1888.

THE anomaly consists of a "series of clonic contractions of certain of the flexor muscles of the right upper and lower extremities which invariably precede the commencement of a sentence, and occasionally also interrupt a sentence already commenced." **Hunter Mackenzie.**

NECK, &c.

BERENS, T. P. (Philadelphia).—**Angioma of the Thyroid Gland.** *Med. News, April* 14, 1888.

A FULL account of the history and autopsy of a case which the author considers unique. **John N. Mackenzie.**

GAUTIER.—Treatment of Exophthalmic Goitre. *Rev. Gén. de Clin. et Thér.*, May 10, 1888.

GRAVES'S disease is a general neurosis, and the precise locality is in the bulbo-protuberantial region. Hyperæsthesia of this region constitutes the primordial functional trouble, which is followed by functional

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modifications of the pneumogastric and of the vaso-dilator mechanism. This hyperæsthesia is most common in patients predisposed to it by a neurasthenic or rheumatic constitution. Next to emotional causes, the principal determining causes are disturbances of the genital functions. These considerations induced the author to try antipyrin in the treatment of the affection, and in two cases he obtained a real success.

CHARCOT.—Exophthalmic Goitre. *Journ. de Lucas Championnière*, 1888.

A LECTURE delivered at the Salpêtrière. The professor insists on two new signs of the affection, viz., diminution of the electrical resistance, studied by Vigoroux—and very completely by Dr. R. Norris Wolfenden, *Practitioner*, 1887 (see abstract in this journal, May, 1888),—and tremor, studied by Marie—also completely by Dr. Wolfenden and Dr. Dawson Williams (see *British Medical Journal*, May, 1888). The knowledge of these two new signs is important, for there are many undeveloped cases which can thus be diagnosed. Hydrotherapy is a good method of treatment in exophthalmic goître, especially repeated applications of ice-bags over the cardiac region : but galvanization of the great sympathetic and faradization of the cardiac region succeed still better. **Joal.**

RENDU.—Exophthalmic Goître caused by Iodism. *Soc. Med. des Hôp.*, May 23, 1888.

THE author relates the case of a woman, twenty-eight years of age, affected with acute aortitis. Under treatment by iodide of potassium, in doses of two grammes daily, the signs of aortitis amended in proportion to the saturation of the system with iodine, but at the same time symptoms of Graves's disease began to develop, as evidenced by tachycardia, vaso-motor and thermic phenomena, and exophthalmos. **Joal.**

CAMERON, J. (Liverpool).—**Case of Bronchocele treated by Fluoric Acid.** *The Liverpool Med.-Chir. Journ.*, July, 1888.

AN enlargement of the thyroid, apparently following upon exposure to cold. The patient had been under treatment for a few weeks without benefit. He was given fifteen minims of the half-per-cent. solution of fluoric acid, and kept in bed on a restricted diet.

Steady amendment occurred, and fourteen months after commencing treatment a mere trace of the enlarged thyroid remains. This is the second case in which the author has seen beneficial results from administration of fluoric acid, and he ascribes some specific influence upon the gland structure to the drug. **R. Norris Wolfenden.**

SHAW, CECIL E.—The Electrica Resistance of the Body in Graves's Disease. *Prov. Med. Journ.*, May, 1888.

THE author gives notes of fourteen cases (nine of Graves's disease and five of simple goître), in which he made forty-six observations. The results of these are in accord with Dr. Wolfenden's demonstration of the

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alteration in the resistance offered by the body to the passage of an electric current. All the cases of Graves's disease showed a marked lowering of this resistance. The electrical resistance, the author agrees with Dr. Wolfenden, thus becomes a most valuable aid to diagnosis between simple goître and early or undeveloped forms of Graves's disease. Its importance is enhanced by the fact that only one of the cases investigated was what would be called a well-marked one, showing considerable exophthalmos, von Graefe's sign, &c., and all might have been unrecognized by a careless observer. **Maxwell Ross.**

REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

British Medical Association.

Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting, Glasgow, 1888.

SECTION OF MEDICINE.

Dr. THEODORE WILLIAMS opened a discussion upon *The Value of Inhalations in the Treatment of Lung Diseases*, and remarked that the direct application of medicinal agents to the air-passages dated from Hippocrates, who used fumigations, employing a pot through the lid of which a reed passed conducting the vapour to the mouth, sponges being used to prevent scalding. The return to the use of inhalations of late years might be traced partly to the accumulation of proofs that various substances could be absorbed by the air-passages, and partly to the antiseptic system. The fact, however, that this direct mode of treatment had hardly held its own against the indirect mode of giving drugs by the stomach was presumptive proof that inhalations *per se* were inadequate for dealing with pulmonary diseases. The various methods of inhalation might be classified as follows:—1. Inhalation of gases, such as oxygen, nitrous oxide, atmospheric air (condensed or rarefied), or vapours of certain medicines (volatile) at low temperatures, as ether, chloroform, nitrite of amyl, and iodide of ethyl. 2. Moist warm inhalations. 3. Dry fuming inhalations. 4. Atomized sprays. 5. Respirators containing antiseptic substances. As regards the first of these methods, there could be no doubt of its efficacy, as the full physiological effects of the various drugs were thus obtained. If antiseptic agents could be pushed to the same degree, and the patient brought thoroughly under their influence, it was probable that the results in pulmonary disease would be much more successful than they were at present. The second method had the great drawback of saturating the air with watery fluid, and, according to the experiments of Dr. Hassall, it was very doubtful whether any considerable proportion of the medicaments used really reached the diseased area. This mode of treatment was useful in croup, laryngitis, pharyngitis, and in affections of the larger bronchi, but its utility in capillary bronchitis and phthisis was doubtful. He had performed a series of experiments to determine whether drugs were really absorbed by this method, and had found that turpentine was readily absorbed, but that iodine was not. This was the more remarkable, inasmuch as iodine was easily absorbed by the stomach.

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