short stay in the hospital she was discharged, but was brought back eight months after in a much worse condition. In her writing, both to dictation and spontaneously, she only reproduced a few letters, though she copied correctly. There was paresis of the right side. The mental power went on diminishing, and the speech getting more unintelligible, till she died of pneumonia ten months after admission.

On examination, there was found a distinct diminution in the lower portion of the second and third frontal gyri. This extended to the top of the left temporal lobe. There was also atrophy of the same parts on the right side, but less marked. The left hemisphere weighed 408, the right 430 grammes.

Microscopic examination showed degeneration of Broca's convolution and the whole temporal lobe on the left side. This was thought to be the sequel of acute encephalitis.

Dr. Pick observes that one cannot say whether the morbid process, which in the end involved the whole speech zone, affected the whole tract at once, or began with the temporal lobe, thence spreading to the frontal gyri. In the first case the paraphasia might be regarded as the first stage of the complete aphasia; in the second case it would be consonant with the view previously illustrated by Dr. Pick that agrammatism is the result of lesion of the temporal lobe. Déjérine and his school hold that agrammatism may be simply a stage in a degenerative affection of Broca's convolution. This view has been recently supported by Bernheim in his treatise *De l'Aphasie motrice* 1901. On the other hand, Pick assures us that he has studied the whole literature on the subject, and has constantly found that this affection of speech is associated with lesions of the temporal lobe. This holds good even with the cases cited by Bernheim. In no clinical cases is the possibility of the implication of the temporal lobe excluded, and in all the cases which came to examination after death the temporal lobe was found to be involved. Pick remarks that the independence of thought from words is now admitted even by some philologists, and he quotes the recent treatise on *The Psychology of Thinking*, by Benno Erdmann, that the real conception which is intertwined with words in formulated thought is not produced, but only indicated through speech.

WILLIAM W. IRELAND.

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5. Pathology of Insanity.

The Pathology and Pathogenesis of the Acute Confusional Psychoses [*Studi sull' Anatomia Patologica e la Patogenesi delle Psicosi Acute Confusional*]. (*Riv. di Pat. Nerv. e Ment., July*, 1902.) *Camia, M.*

This number is wholly occupied by a paper on this condition. The author has already in previous numbers described seven cases, and he now records fourteen others, in addition to which he has collected from various sources over fifty cases.

Dr. Camia tabulates the various alterations in the nerve-cells in the nerve-fibres both in the brain and cord, and also the chief alterations noted in the organs throughout the body. Certain of the cases without complications presented a picture with slight alterations of the chromatic

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substance of the cells in the various parts of the nervous system; slight fatty degeneration of the epithelial cells in the liver and kidney, and with a certain amount of increase in the nuclei of the vessel walls. These changes may be taken as the basis of the condition, being common to all. In cases of delirium tremens these do not differ in any marked characteristic from cases with the common symptoms of marked mental confusion. From the anatomical point of view there is a difference in certain cases with motor signs or with hallucinations of sight, of alterations in the cells of origin of the pyramidal tract from "reaction at a distance."

As regards the origin of the toxic substances, pathological anatomy is not yet sufficiently advanced. There must be a lessening of resistance of the nervous system of those affected, probably of a hereditary character. In alcoholics, for example, some such difference may determine whether their symptoms shall consist of delirium tremens, or one of the psychoses, or some other disease. Similar considerations probably act in all cases of chronic intoxication. Even in the cases developing in convalescence from acute infective conditions, altered processes of "assimilation" may be advanced.

A third group consists of true febrile delirium, either manifested during the course of a septicæmia or the so-called cases of absorption in which the septicæmia had passed off.

In the last group of cases, no evident etiological factor is present Bianchi and Peccenino have stated the existence of a specific bacillus. Philippers considers cases of shock as cases of intoxication, caused by alterations in the metabolism produced by the influence of the nervous action. In some of these forms of psychosis a similar origin may exist; it may be by a psychic or nervous injury causing sudden alterations in the metabolism. We are able to draw the conclusion that pathological anatomy does not clear up the pathogenesis of many cases; the acute confusional psychoses have a common symptomatology and anatomical lesions, probably all caused by chemical alterations which may depend upon very varied causes.

J. R. GILMOUR.

On the State of the Cerebro-spinal Fluids in General Paralysis [*Ueber das Verhalten der Cerebro-spinal Flüssigkeit bei Dementia Paralytica, etc.*]. (*Allgem. Zeits. für Psychiat., Bd. lix, H.* 1.)

The author recalls that since Quinke, in 1891, directed the attention of the Wiesbaden Congress to the use of lumbar puncture, numerous publications have appeared on the subject. He observes that the high expectations of the therapeutic value of this operation have not been realised, any improvement following being seldom lasting. It has been used with most effect in acute, serous, and sero-purulent meningitis, and less so in simple hydrocephalus, brain tumour, and tubercular meningitis. Lumbar puncture has, however, been an important addition to our means of diagnosis. Through it we are able to ascertain whether there is abnormal increase in the spinal fluid. This gives an important indication in cases of brain tumours and of serous meningitis with obscure symptoms. In doubtful cases of tubercular meningitis the

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