

withdrawn, with a weak solution of sodii bicarb. and ac. boric, a certain amount being left in after each washing. Internally patient was given urotropin and a mixture of liq. ext. ergot and tr. nucis vomicæ, the object of the latter being to increase the contractility of the bladder. The general toilette of the body was also attended to. On the 16th the urine was much clearer, but there was no improvement in the tone of the bladder; the dribbling had, however, ceased, which showed that the sphincter vesicæ was acting better. There was no improvement for another four or five days, until on the 21st the patient passed about six ounces of urine. The flow was, of course, very weak, and the act of micturition on this occasion occupied about ten minutes. From that day onwards improvement, though gradual, was very steady, and now (March 3rd) patient passes urine quite easily, and there is no more cystitis. Unfortunately, he refuses to stay in hospital any longer, and so it is rather difficult to say whether the improvement is temporary or permanent. He feels greatly relieved, and has promised to return should there be any sign of recurrence.

Remarks.

The series of events in this case does not appear quite clear. The cystitis and residual urine are easily understood, but not the sudden distension. The symptoms in this case were identical with those occurring in spinal cases, of which there were no signs whatever; moreover, in a nervous case one could not expect such marked improvement in such a short time, the bladder functioning normally, as far as can be seen, in less than three weeks. Syphilis can also safely be excluded. There was a history of gonorrhœa, but even granted that the gonococcus had migrated via the posterior urethra to the bladder, it would not produce such a train of symptoms, and the gonococcus has no special affinity for the nerves of the bladder or of any other organ. I might also add that, though frequent smears were taken from a purulent discharge at the anterior urethra, no gonococci were ever found; this, I think, will allow us to rule out gonorrhœa as the cause of the trouble.

The only literature in my possession with any allusion to this form of atony of the bladder is Thomson Walker's "Genito-Urinary Surgery," where he says that in all his cases the power of voluntary micturition remained, although greatly impaired. Further on he gives as the cause of such cases "a lesion in the lowest reflex centres of the bladder—namely, the hypogastric and hæmorrhoidal plexus of the sympathetic, but why such a lesion should remain confined to the bladder centre in all these cases is difficult of explanation" (1914, p. 537). For lack of a better explanation one has to accept this one just given, but I would be grateful to know if anybody who has had similar cases has arrived at a more satisfying conclusion.

A NOTE ON A

LIVING FOREIGN BODY IN THE EAR.

BY ARTHUR WOOD, M.B., B.CH. CAMB., &C.

RECENTLY a man came to see me in urgent haste, saying that he had an "animal" in his ear. Three-quarters of an hour previously he had been walking near a wall which was well warmed in the sun, when suddenly something flew into his ear from the wall. He had been syringed with water and had had oil poured in, but it had not killed the creature, for it was still making a loud and most unpleasant noise. With the aid of a syringe I easily removed a moth, which was about the size of a silver-Y; the remnants of its wings were very dark. Naturally these were frayed and almost scaleless, but it was still alive, though it had been subjected to so many and various douches. I have extracted a dead but unsuspected earwig, the patient not having the slightest idea when it got in, but I have never seen a moth, nor would I have thought it possible for the insect to get in before the man had caught it by the tail.

Rugby.

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS.—Miss E. A. Maynard has by her will bequeathed £5000 to the Ranyard Mission, which has 85 district nurses working in different parts of London, and a similar sum to the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society.—The late Mr. W. Lewin, of Wellingborough, left £21 to his medical attendant as a token of appreciative regard.

Medical Societies.

CONGRESSES OF PHYSIOLOGY.

PARIS: INTER-ALLIED CONGRESS OF PHYSIOLOGY.

THE Inter-Allied Congress of Physiology—for the present, at least, no longer an International Congress—met at Paris from July 16th–20th. CHARLES RICHET, the learned and eloquent Professor of Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine was the appropriate President, having been appointed by the International Congress at its last meeting, held before the War in Groningen.

Presidential Address.

In his address of welcome to the members the PRESIDENT said that this was the first meeting of the Congress on French soil, to which he cordially welcomed them. He referred in elegant and appropriate terms to the memory of those workers in physiology and allied sciences whose deaths had occurred since the last meeting of the Congress. The President's message, addressed more especially to his younger listeners, was "Cherchez à connaître les choses, l'utilité viendra plus tard; c'est d'abord la connaissance qui importe." In illustration of this advice he referred to the fruitful, yet at the time seemingly unpractical, investigations of Claude Bernard on the sugar-forming function of the liver. In the same connexion he spoke of his own researches on anaphylaxis—a word coined by himself—a condition which has found abundant application in practical medicine and therapeutics. His first investigations were carried out with Portier on board the yacht of Prince Albert of Monaco when on a scientific voyage to South America, the experiments being made on birds with the poisons obtained from certain sea anemones living in tropical waters. The President concluded by the reflection that there were three great problems confronting physiologists at the present time. First the whole question of nutrition and alimentation, including that of vitamines. This "infamous war" had shown clearly that our conceptions of the minimal alimentary ration were erroneous, and that the rôle of fats in nutrition, of which we previously had but little knowledge, was of profound importance. The mysterious nutriments known as vitamines called into serious question the physiological value of our methods of cooking. The second great problem was the physiology of the brain. For almost 40 years this subject had scarcely made any progress. Our ignorance of ideation, memory, psychic reflexes, and their localisation was almost complete. The third question was both vast and obscure—heredity, and quite pertinently the speaker asked why physiologists left this problem to botanists, zoologists, and agriculturists, and commended the study of the lower animals and microbes in this regard. By prosecuting research with ingenuity and ardour surprises and discoveries would be found both numerous and happy.

Other Communications.

Numerous interesting communications followed.

M. DOYON, of Lyon, gave a demonstration on Blood Coagulation, bearing especially on antithrombin and nucleinate of soda. The substance in the blood which prevents coagulation in "peptone-plasma" seems to be of nuclear origin, and owes its activity to specific phosphorus compounds. From plasma—from a dog injected with peptone—by heating and dilute acetic acid, there is obtained a precipitate of coagulated proteins—amongst them a nucleo-protein containing 3 per cent. of phosphorus, which is capable of preventing coagulation of the blood in vitro. It seems to be derived from the nuclei of cellular organs; in fact, from all the tissues of the dog can be obtained an anti-coagulant substance identical in action with that present in dog's peptone-plasma. Blood shed directly into a solution of nucleinate of soda remains fluid, and in a few hours undergoes marked hæmolysis. The