

the medulla. After section of the medulla, acute anæmia produced by blood-letting has no effect, neither does cutting off the blood-supply of the brain produce any effect on the uterus after the medulla is so divided. Suspension of the respiration produces its effect, notwithstanding section of the vagi and the sympathetics. So also with anæmia and cutting off the blood-supply of the brain.

Hence irritation of the central nervous system by these means causes uterine contractions. The centre irritated is higher than the point cut, and the propagation of the stimulus is conveyed through the spinal cord. Asphyxiated blood in the uterus causes the same phenomena directly, but they occur later than the irritation proceeding from the central nervous system.

CAUSE OF MULTIPLE METASTATIC ABSCESSSES.—Recklinghausen (*Centralblatt*, No. 45, 1871) believes that he has discovered the cause of the multiple metastatic abscesses, which occur in a whole series of infectious diseases, especially in pyæmia, puerperal fever, typhus, acute arthritis, and lastly infiltration of urine, and gangrene of the lung. He thinks these 'abscesses' are due to colonies of minute organisms, which have the characters of micrococcus, and which are identical with the organisms found by Buhl, Oertel, and Nassiloff in diphtheria. Recklinghausen found these colonies in greatest abundance in the kidneys, generally surrounded by a zone of extravasation, or purulent deposit. These were found not merely round the blood-vessels, but also within the Malpighian capsules, and the uriniferous tubules, and also in the bladder washed away from these parts by the urine. Sometimes the colonies were so thick that they caused a nodulated appearance of the tubule, and sometimes caused rupture. Organisms described as nodulated trabeculæ of a greenish tint were found in one case of scarlatina in the pyramids. These were quite different from the micrococci. These colonies cannot, as Recklinghausen thinks, be attributed to embolisms, as they occur in extravascular regions and also in the alveoli of the lungs.

HEREDITARY TRANSMISSION OF ACQUIRED QUALITIES.—Brown-Séquard and Dupuy (*Rev. Scientifique*, 1871-72, p. 668) have observed partial closure of the eyelids in a whole litter of a guinea-pig whose sympathetic had been cut in the neck.

INFLUENCE OF BAROMETRIC PRESSURE ON VITAL PHENOMENA.—P. Bert (*Comptes Rendus*, Feb. 26, 1872) continues his researches on this subject (see *Report in Journ.*, Nov. 1871). He seeks to determine what results follow when animals are placed in artificial atmospheres richer in oxygen than ordinary air. He finds that a sparrow dies in a hyperoxygenated atmosphere at the normal pressure, and temperature of 12—15°, when the atmosphere became charged with about 25 per cent of carbonic acid. This also holds for lower pressure down to 25 centimetres. Below this the proportion is not so constant, but differs the more, the less the pressure. Just as in ordinary air, so in hyperoxygenated air at low