"1. There is a rapid accumulation of $CO_2$ in the pleuræ after death, which fact rules out the majority of analyses yet published.

"2. The presence of a purulent exudate is an important element in determining the composition of the gas.

"3. This post-mortem accumulation of $CO_2$ may explain the high tension of the gas, which hisses from the chest on the autopsy table.

"4. The method of diagnosing an open fistula proposed by Leconte and Demarquay seems to be valid."

Preceding authors have largely, if not altogether, failed to recognize the fact that the composition of the gas found in the pleura in pneumothorax is, in part at least, dependent upon the character of the microorganisms contained in the accompanying exudate. We know that certain bacteria consume oxygen and give off carbonic acid gas, while still others break up proteid material and elaborate $H_2S$ and possibly $(NH_4)_2S$. It is not, therefore, surprising that there has been much diversity of statement concerning the composition of the gas in pneumothorax. Our author certainly makes it clear that these variations are to be expected.

The second paper is entitled 'Clinical Observations on Blood Pressure.' This is always an interesting subject to both the physiologist and the clinician. The instrument used in these observations was a modified Riva-Rocci sphygmomanometer, which gives very satisfactory results. The experiments made upon the effects of anesthesia upon blood pressure confirm the views now quite universally held by the best surgeons in this country; that is, that chloroform, on account of its depressing action, and the consequent low blood pressure, is a much more dangerous anesthetic for surgical operations than ether. The authors of this paper, Cook and Briggs, bring out the fact, so well known to obstetricians, that the depressing action of chloroform is not manifest when this anesthetic is used in labor. The most interesting part of this paper, to your reviewer, at least, is that which deals with the effects of strychnin and digitalin in cases of shock. Most clinicians of wide experience have become very positively convinced that strychnin, especially, is valuable in shock, but this has recently been denied by Crile, whose most interesting and valuable work upon this subject demands respect. Crile holds that the employment of strychnin in shock is irrational because, according to him, in this condition the vaso-motor center is completely exhausted, and no good is to be secured by 'flogging the tired horse to death.' Notwithstanding the conclusion reached by Crile, the majority of clinicians think that they have had in their experience ample and frequently repeated evidence of the value of strychnin in shock, and it is gratifying to know that Cook and Briggs in the paper now under review have shown that in eight out of ten cases of shock under central stimulation with strychnin, digitalin or cocain, positive improvement has been secured. It is only fair to state that this difference between Crile and other clinicians is largely a matter of words. Crile recognizes as 'shock' only those cases in which strychnin does no good, and he designates by the term 'collapse' other cases in which central stimulation is of value; but inasmuch as no one, not even the operator himself, can distinguish between the two in many instances, the clinician will undoubtedly continue to use strychnin in shock, and in doing this will be justified by the experimental observations recorded in the article now under consideration.

The third paper in this volume is entitled 'The Value of Tuberculin in Surgical Diagnosis,' and is presented by Dr. Tinker. While this article is of value, inasmuch as it confirms the findings of a number of others who have investigated the subject, it can not be said to furnish us with anything new. The author concludes that tuberculin, properly employed, is a valuable agent, and, we may say, the most valuable agent in our possession in the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis, and is harmless.

V. C. Vaughan.

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*SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.*

*The Psychological Review* will hereafter be edited by Professor J. Mark Baldwin, of the Johns Hopkins University, and Professor H.

C. Warren, of Princeton University. The editors announce that beginning with January 15, there will be issued monthly a literary section devoted especially to reviews of the literature.

*The British Journal of Psychology,* edited by Professor James Ward and Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, of Cambridge University, with the co-operation of Messrs. W. McDougall, C. S. Myers, A. F. Shand, C. S. Sherrington and W. G. Smith. The first number will be published in January by the Cambridge University Press and the parts will thereafter be issued at irregular intervals, about 450 pages constituting a volume, the price of which is 15s. The following papers will appear in early numbers:

J. WARD: 'On the Definition of Psychology.'

C. S. SHERRINGTON: 'On the Interrelation between Corresponding Retinal Points.'

J. L. MCINTYRE: 'A Sixteenth Century Psychologist, Bernardino Telesio.'

W. MCDOUGALL: 'The Sensations Excited by a Single Momentary Stimulation of the Eye.'

C. S. MYERS: 'The Taste-names of Primitive Peoples.'

R. LATTA: 'A Case of Recovery from Congenital Blindness.'

W. H. R. RIVERS: 'Observations on the Senses of the Todas.'

Also papers by F. W. MOTT, A. F. SHAND, H. HEAD and others.

The Proceedings of the Psychological Society will also be published in the Journal.

MR. F. SHILLINGTON SEALES will, from January next, edit in *Knowledge* the columns devoted to microscopy; still further space is to be given to this subject in our contemporary in the new year.

THE catalogue division of the Library of Congress has sent to press, and will issue shortly, through the office of card distribution, a set of analytics for Engler-Prantl's 'Die natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien.' Each article (family) in this important set of monographs will be represented by a separate catalogue card, which contains full bibliographical information, including exact dates of publication for undated signatures. Beside subject headings, all added entries will be printed in full. The cards covering the unfinished portions of the work will be issued upon the completion of the volumes in question. The number of titles now going to press is 458, and the total number of cards necessary for main entries, subjects and added entries will be 936. These may be obtained at the office of card distribution. The task of analyzing this and other collective works of similar importance, titles of which will be announced later, has been performed by Mr. J. Christian Bay. Owing to the exacting demands of necessary work in other directions, the library has so far undertaken but little work of this character.

## *DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.*

### THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: As the St. Louis meeting of the American Association and its allied societies is drawing near, I beg the privilege of making, through the columns of SCIENCE, a suggestion to those, who I hope are many, intending to appear before Section B at that meeting. I think the general opinion of those who attended the Washington meetings of this section and of the Physical Society, which cooperated, is that the matter presented was, as a rule, very good, and that the manner of presentation was, as a rule, very bad. The habit of us physicists is to put in, before the meeting, a very modest claim for time, ten or fifteen minutes, when we have ample material for twenty or twenty-five, and then when we have the floor, to proceed as if we were giving a one-hour lecture in a course running through the year. Very few of our talks at society or association meetings give the impression of being thoroughly thought out, with a view not only to the subject, but to the audience as well. What we call 'papers' are apt to be rather disordered, imperfectly considered remarks about our papers, which in some cases are still to be written.

My suggestion is that every man who intends to make a communication to Section B at the coming meeting shall ask for as much time on the program as he is at all likely to need, and that, keeping his time allotment