

efficacy, as we shall see, as well as a covenant. The long wars with the Canaanites and Baal worshippers were conflicts with phallicism, to the gross orgies of which the chosen people were always lapsing. All early Hebrew history shows that while man knows how to breed cattle, Jehovah could breed men, and it is a study of human heredity far more effective than Plato knew how to make it. The New Testament begins with the annunciation and conception from on high, and a nursery scene of moving bucolic power, while Islam hypostatizes only the former." And what strength is added to a eulogy of wrestling by the last clause of this sentence: "The very closeness of body to body, emphasizing flexor rather than extensor arm muscles, imparts to it a peculiar tone, gives it a vast variety of possible activities, developing many alternatives at every stage, and tempts to many undiscovered forms of mayhem." These two samples were taken practically at random, but one puzzling association so rings in the reviewer's ears that he must allow it a motor discharge. It concerns the psychology of prison life and is, "Not only men, but women fall\* in a school-girl mash, but women can not organize or complot."

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#### SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

THE leading article in the *Journal of Comparative Neurology and Psychology* for June is 'An Enumeration of the Medullated Nerve Fibers in the Ventral Roots of the Spinal Nerves of Man,' by Charles E. Ingbert, a direct continuation of the same author's former enumeration of the dorsal root fibers of man. An extensive discussion of the areas of the cross-sections of each root, the number of fibers per square millimeter of the cross-sections and the relation between the dorsal and ventral roots is followed by figures and tabulations giving the data for each fascicle of each nerve root. There are 203,700 medullated nerve fibers in the ventral roots of the left side

\* The actual text is *pall*, which to the reviewer makes a truer statement, but the context suggests the correction.

and 653,627 in the dorsal roots, these numbers being in the ratio of 1:3.2. In the white rat this ratio is 1:2.3 and in the frog 1:1.2, indicating that probably the relative sensory supply increases as we ascend in the zoological series.

#### SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

##### THE TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

THE meeting of May 10, 1904, was held in the library of the New York College of Pharmacy, Rev. L. H. Lighthipe presiding.

The first paper on the scientific program was by Dr. H. M. Richards, entitled, 'Notes on the Peat Bogs of Ireland.' The peat bogs have been variously estimated as covering from one fifth to one tenth of the surface of Ireland; probably the larger estimate is excessive.

Dr. Richard's observations at several points on the west coast including Donegal and Achill Island were given. The basis of the bogs is not always the same, but in some cases it is glacial gravel. The thickness of the peat varies from one or two feet to forty feet, but no exposures of more than twenty-five feet thickness were seen. On the slopes and hill-sides the peat is thinner, but becomes accumulated in the lower situations so that the thickness of the bog does not necessarily show its age. Bogs have been known to burst, as in Sligo, in 1831, and to do considerable damage to houses below them.

The peat is mostly vegetable matter and yields very little ash. According to Lyell, its formation is supposed to be due to the low temperature preventing complete decomposition of the vegetable matter. Peat is not formed in warm countries and the additions to the beds are made in cold weather. In the bogs seen there was standing water only in the holes and ditches, but the soil was wet and soggy. Comparatively little of the bog oak is found. Some of the stumps are in place, showing that they are not driftwood carried into the bog. The dark color and hardness of the bog oak are said to be due to the action of a diatom, a *Melosira*, and the formation of bog iron ore is supposed to be due to the same