

**A STUDY OF SOME POINTS
IN THE PATHOLOGY OF
CEREBRAL HAEMORRHAGE**

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A Study of Some Points in the Pathology of Cerebral Haemorrhage by Ch. Bouchard

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CH. BOUCHARD

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PATHOLOGY OF CEREBRAL HÆMORRHAGE.

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BY

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MÉDICALES DE LYON, LAURÉAT DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DE
MÉDECINE DE STRASBOURG.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH WITH NOTES

BY

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

THE pathology of diseases of the brain, from the importance of the subject, as well as from the obscurity with which it is surrounded, has always attracted much attention both in this country and on the continent. To no part of the subject has so much attention been paid as to the pathology of cerebral hæmorrhage; and yet our knowledge of the mode of production of that accident is still most unsatisfactory. The greatest variety of opinion exists as to the exact cause of the hæmorrhage, and as to the connection which exists between it and cerebral softening, atheroma, cardiac hypertrophy, kidney disease, &c. The names of Abercrombie, Todd, Rochoux, Durand-Fardel, Rokitsansky, Leubuscher, and of many other illustrious men, are inseparably connected with the literature of the question, and are a sufficient guarantee that the cause of this confusion is to be sought for rather in the difficulty of the subject than in want of ability or competence on the part of those who have investigated it.

The subject still demands attention as well from its obscurity as from its importance.

The most original and important of all recent works on the subject of cerebral hæmorrhage is unquestionably that of which I now give an English translation.

It was published in Paris early in 1867, and at once attracted much attention, both from the interest attaching to the subject, and from the novelty of the views therein expressed. I happened to be studying in Paris at the time, and naturally had my attention directed to the work. I had, moreover, the great advantage, especially at the clinique of Professor Behier at la Pitié, of seeing the miliary aneurisms which M. Bouchard has described, in various cases of cerebral hæmorrhage, and can bear personal testimony to the accuracy of his description, as well as to the minute care and exactness with which they are represented in the plates.

The importance which is attached at the present day to the state of the minute arteries in health and in disease, forms one of the most striking features of modern medical research. One can scarcely take up a journal without seeing a reference to some question in physiology, pathology, or therapeutics, in which the condition of these vessels forms the point of interest. In therapeutics especially great advance is being made regarding our knowledge of the mode of action of many drugs, and some of our most valuable remedies are now believed to owe their good effects to their stimulating or restraining action on the vaso-motor system of nerves.

The importance of the physiological action of the minute arteries in regulating the supply of blood to a given organ or part of the body cannot be over-estimated. And it can readily be understood that any pathological change in their contractile elements, such as that described in the following pages, must have a

serious effect on the organ whose vessels are so altered, and must also render the person in whom it occurs less amenable to the action of those remedies which act through the vaso-motor system.

The interest of MM. Charcot and Bouchard's researches is centered in the military aneurisms which they have so well described, and which they have shown *par excellence* to be the cause of hæmorrhage into the substance of the brain.

If it should hereafter be found (as, from the observations of M. Liouville, seems not at all unlikely) that similar changes take place in the minute arteries of other organs of the body, the observations of MM. Charcot and Bouchard will have a wider sphere of application than is at present accorded to them, and may throw much light on the pathology of other diseases than cerebral hæmorrhage, and especially of those chronic ailments which chiefly occur in advanced life.

It is possible, too, that changes in the minute arteries (functional or organic) may play a not unimportant part in the pathology of other forms of cerebral disease, and even of many of those mental ailments which are unconnected with appreciable organic change in the proper tissue of the brain.

The great importance of the subject, and the fact that the labours of MM. Charcot and Bouchard have not attracted in this country such general attention as they certainly merit, have induced me to publish this translation.

At the suggestion of Dr Bouchard I have considerably curtailed those cases which I have given, and have omitted many altogether.

I but carry out his expressed wishes in saying that the work to which his name alone is attached is the result of labours which were shared by M. Charcot, to whom he is anxious that there should be accorded an equal share of the honour which the authors of such an original and able investigation certainly merit.

At the further suggestion of Dr Bouchard I have added as an appendix a more recent joint paper by M. Charcot and himself, which was published in the "*Archives de Physiologie*," and in which are embodied the results of their further investigations into the nature of the military aneurisms, and their connection with hæmorrhage.

DUNDEE, *July 1872.*

CEREBRAL HÆMORRHAGE.

INTRODUCTION.

THE multiplicity of the causes which seem to have an influence in the production of cerebral hæmorrhage, and the diversity of the lesions which play an important part in its pathology, have induced many authors to regard effusion of blood into the brain as only an accident or complication of different diseases.

This opinion, which undoubtedly applies to a certain number of cases, appears to me much too absolute. The study of the pathology of sanguineous apoplexy can alone lead to a solution of this important question. Without pretending to treat fully in this work of all the points pertaining to that study, I shall endeavour to show, by examining in succession the influence of the various lesions which act as proximate causes of cerebral hæmorrhage, that there are cases, in my opinion the most numerous, in which hæmorrhage into the substance of the brain presents itself as a distinct and separate disease, characterised by changes peculiar to itself, and really meriting a special place in nosology.

In order to attain this end, the importance of which is evident, and to the difficulties of which I am quite alive, we must carefully examine the opinions already enunciated regarding the pathological modifications of the local circulation in the brain, and the morbid changes of the intra-cranial vascular system.

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