

responded to a weaker current than was necessary for the stimulation of the other areas.

The pyramid tract fibers were traced from their origin in the cerebral cortex, caudalwards, to the spinal cord. They occupied the usual positions in the crista, pontine bundles and anterior pyramid above the decussation. In the posterior part of the medulla oblongata most of them crossed the median raphe and turned caudalwards into the lateral column of the spinal cord, but in three of the specimens examined a considerable number of fibers remained uncrossed and formed a direct ventral pyramid tract, extending along the margin of the ventral median fissure. This tract could be traced to the middle of the thoracic region where it disappeared. A few uncrossed fibers were also found in the lateral column.

It is generally believed that this uncrossed ventral tract (direct pyramidal tract) is limited to man and the anthropoid apes; such, however, is not the case, for it is present in the raccoon and is more pronounced still in the porcupine.¹

The crossed lateral pyramid tract could be followed to the last of the sacral segments. In the raccoon this is a large tract both in relative area, in transverse sections of the spinal cord, and in the number of fibers which it contains. In no animal below the macaque monkey have I found it so extensive.

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Note on the action of tonsillar extract.

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We used the dried powdered tonsil of the calf. When a filtered infusion of two grains of the powdered tonsil was injected into the cat by the jugular vein in divided doses, it produced a great fall of blood-pressure, lasting about a minute, followed by a rise above normal, with a much slower and stronger heart beat. Increase of this dose suddenly arrested the heart. In the same animal it was also a diuretic, increasing the flow of urine twenty times the original amount.

¹ Sutherland Simpson, PROC. SOC. EXPER. BIOL. AND MED., 1912, Oct. 18, p. 15.