

Sherrington\* described the scratch reflex in the spinal dog (Fig. 9) in which stimulation anywhere in a saddle-shaped area extending from the pectoral to the pelvic girdle caused rapid scratching movements in the ipsilateral hind leg and rigidity in the contralateral limb. If the stimulus is moved but slightly to the opposite side of the back the hind legs reverse their roles. Ipsilateral hemisection of the spinal cord abolishes the reflex, contralateral hemisection leaves it unaffected.

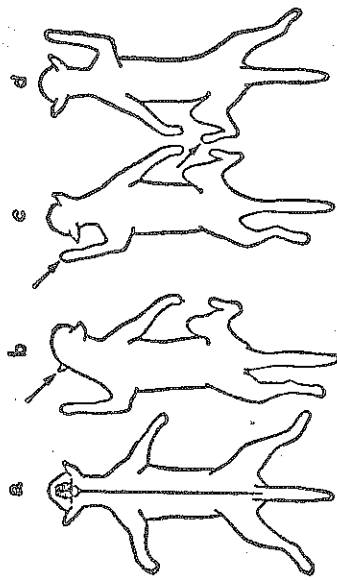


FIG. 10

Sherrington also experimented with decerebrate cats in which the nervous axis is divided at the level of the mid-brain. In the resultant decerebrate rigidity, the cats exhibit reflex figures (Fig. 10).

- (a) In normal decerebrate rigidity all limbs are extended.
- (b) If the left pinna is stimulated there is flexion of the left fore and right hind limbs, with increased extension of the others.
- (c) If the left fore limb is stimulated there is flexion of the left fore and right hind limbs, with increased extension of the others.
- (d) If the left hind limb is stimulated there is flexion of the left hind limb and right fore limb, with increased extension of the others.

The reflex figures require both sides of the spinal cord for their

\*Sherrington, C. S. The integrative action of the nervous system, 1906. Scribner, New York. Also Fig. 9 and 10.

# ACUPUNCTURE

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