

years, and my remarks are based on this series. No case has been accepted as evidence unless either the meningococcus has been isolated from lumbar puncture by a competent bacteriologist, or the autopsy showed the characteristic lesions and the specific organism.

During the past year we have had 26 cases of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis in the Royal Victoria and Montreal General Hospitals.

Season.—With regard to the season of the year, the winter and spring months show the largest number of cases, the month of May heading the list. Occasional cases occurred in the summer months, the only month in which the disease was absent being September.

Age.—Koplik reports that in the New York epidemic the greatest frequency in age was in children under two years. Councilman in Boston, found the greatest frequency between twenty-six and thirty years. Westenhoffer, out of over 3,000 cases in the recent epidemic in Silesia reports 90 per cent. under fifteen years of age. In our series the largest number of cases occurs between the years ten and twenty. Arranged in decades the ages are as follows:

0—1 year.	1
1—10 years	14
11—20 “	16
21—30 “	6
31—40 “	4
41—over	4

The youngest patient was seven months old, and nursing at the time. The oldest was 52.

Sex.—10 cases females, 36 males.

The Mode of Onset.—The most prominent feature of the onset in this series was its sudden and abrupt nature. This is so evident that definite mention is made of the suddenness in 24 cases (52 per cent.). In some cases patients are first affected while at work, or children while at play or school. In four cases, however, of this series special mention is made that the onset was not sudden but gradual. Of the initial symptoms two stand out in much greater frequency than the others: (1) vomiting, (2) headache.

(1) Vomiting was nearly always present (74 per cent.) of cases. It was frequently almost continuous, lasting in one case three days, but it is noted that in the most severe type of the disease vomiting may be absent entirely, as happened in three cases of this series.

(2) Headache and pain in the neck were the next most frequent symptoms of the onset, and were very frequently present (69 per cent.)