

within six months after birth. Some attribute it either to arrest of brain development or to chronic inflammation of the lining membrane of the ventricles. The amount of fluid varies from a few ounces to several pints. It is limpid in character, colorless and watery. The ventricular lining membrane is often thickened, granular and rough. The arachnoid membrane is often stretched. The brain is altered in shape, its convolutions being flattened. Its texture is at times firmer than normal. In other cases it is soft and has a macerated look. Generally the optic nerves are stretched—the cranial bones thin and spongy—the fontanelles enlarged. The head enlarges sometimes enormously and becomes so heavy that the muscles are unable to hold it erect, so that it requires support. The forehead is prominent and large. The eyeballs are prominent and look downward. Distinct fluctuation can generally be felt in the fontanelles. The face has a wedge shape look, while the countenance gives the child an oldish appearance. Squinting is common, and the child burrows its head on the pillow—depressing the posterior part. It often rolls the head from side to side. The child is peevish and irritable, and its sleep is broken; often the first sign of waking is a sharp, shrill cry. Sight is impaired—sometimes there is total blindness. I have seen the latter more than once. If the child is old enough to walk there will be less of the co-ordinating power. Convulsions are not uncommon. The body wastes and the skin has a shrunken, shrivelled look—temperature is lowered. Appetite is often excessive and vomiting common. Bowels generally constipated and the stools unhealthy. Death is the usual termination, though I have seen more than one recovery. The disease may last several years. It generally terminates in a few months by coma or convulsions.

*Treatment.*—Endeavour to diminish the fluid in the ventricles by giving diuretics as infusion of digitalis—squills—compound spirits of juniper, nitrate and acetate of potash. The last is perhaps the best remedy we have, and to a child of six months two grains may be given every three hours.