

nitric acid test for albumen. The formation of a ring at the junction of the two liquids constitutes a positive reaction. The ring is clear-cut, thin, greyish-white, and has the thickness of a thin piece of paper. It should form within three minutes, and within half an hour it may be observed that the surface of the ring shows a delicate mesh appearance resembling a fine cobweb. Indirect illumination must be used, or it may escape detection. For this purpose we have constructed a black-lined box into which the test tube can be inserted and viewed at right angles to an electric bulb which is fixed within the box a few inches away. In applying the test it is essential to see, first, that the ammonium sulphate is pure, so that the solution is neutral and not acid; and, secondly, that the solution is quite saturated, which is best ensured by the use of heat in the manufacture of it.

We come now to the question of results. Up to the present we have examined only 27 cases, but the paucity of our material is partly compensated for by the uniformity of our findings, which has encouraged us to believe that the tests in question will prove to be of considerable utility.

The Noguchi test was applied in 15 syphilitic cases and 12 non-syphilitic. It was negative in all of the latter except in 1 case of tuberculous meningitis. Among the negative cases were 5 of dementia praecox and 4 of tumor cerebri, conditions which are frequently very difficult to distinguish from general paralysis. Among the 15 syphilitic cases were 12 untreated and 3 treated cases. None of the latter gave a positive reaction, while all of the former did so. The 12 positive cases comprised 3 of tabes, 5 of general paralysis, 1 of tertiary syphilis, and 3 of syphilis of the nervous system. The test was thus positive without exception in all cases of syphilis or parasymphilis that had not had recent treatment, and negative in all other cases examined.

The effect of treatment was shown not only by the non-reaction of the cases under treatment, but also in the disappearance of the reaction seventeen days after initiating treatment in a case that had previously shown a