

A CASE OF OTITIS MEDIA WITH PURULENT MENINGITIS.

BY DR. H. J. HAMILTON.

Patient—H. W., admitted to Toronto General Hospital under the care of Dr. W. H. B. Aikins; male, aged 32 married. Had four children. Worked as a salesman. Used tobacco and drank heavily. Had pneumonia in February, 1898, and enteritis three years ago. On the night of December 24th he complained of some earache which passed off in a short time, and did not prevent him from working during the next week. One week later, or about midnight on Saturday, December 31st, he went to bed feeling as well as usual, having worked all day and attended a banquet at night. In a short time he awoke with a most severe pain in the right ear and right side of the head. On the next day, Sunday, January 1st, there was a discharge of blood and pus from the right ear. He also complained of pains in the back of the neck, and great headache and some vomiting.

Was admitted to the hospital on January 9th; was delirious on the preceding day, and has continued so since. Very restless, tossing about in bed and getting out of bed. Had some slight cough, and the sputum was streaked with blood on the day of admission. He complained several times to his wife that his left side seemed paralyzed, and that his right eye smarted a good deal. When he wanted to move the left hand he always lifted it with the right.

Present Condition.—Patient delirious. Resp. 24, temperature 100.4°, pulse 108. Face flushed, pain in the head, some tenderness over the mastoid process in the right side. Discharge from right ear. Right pupil larger than the left. Both pupils reacted to light. No tender points along the spine. Patellar reflexes not exaggerated. Ankle clonus present in both legs, but more marked in the left. Sensation seemed to be normal. No muscular twitching, but restless, getting up all the time. No paralysis of power or motion observed after admission. Urine alkaline, specific gravity, 1025, albumen and sugar not present. Impaired resonance in the base of the left lung. No rales. Breathing heard over both lungs. Heart normal, liver enlarged, spleen palpable. The patient was delirious throughout the next day, January 10th, and died that night, twenty-four hours after admission.

Autopsy.—Made by Dr. Hamilton twelve hours after death. The condition of brain and meninges was the chief point of interest. The external surface of the dura mater was practically normal. No congestion of the vessels, but there were