

In looking over the literature the symptoms seem most plain (Osler, page 1028, last edition.) Hydrocephalus was very little known till Dr. Wyeth published observations on dropsy of the brain in 1768. This writer says, "We are lead to suspect some deeply seated evil from the frantic screams and complaints of head and belly, alternating with stupor or rather lowness and unwillingness to be aroused."

The stupor is still interrupted by exclamations or shrill piercing screams while the tremulous hands of the little sufferer are incessantly engaged in picking his nose or mouth. Dr. Cheyne describes 3 stages. 1st. Increased sensibility, where each stimulus produces an inordinate response. 2nd. stage of diminished sensibility, child not easily aroused, pupils dilated, pulse slow; he is lethargic and with obstinately costive bowels. 3rd. stage palsy and convulsions, squinting, rolling of the head, stupor, convulsions, rapid thready pulse.

Dr. Wests analysis of 40 cases of Acute Hydrocephalus.

5 cases under one year.

9 cases under three years.

20 cases between three and six years.

5 cases between six and nine years.

1 case between ten and eleven years.

In Holmes Surgery, paracentesis capitis is advised, and since then many have tried with the aid of aseptic surgery to accomplish a cure but with uniformly bad results. Tapping in the region of the lumbar vertebrae has relieved some cases of external hydrocephalus, but I was unable to find any record of the patient having grown up a useful citizen.

---