

SPINAL PUNCTURE.—Fürbringer (*Deut. med. Woch.*) refers to a few cases in which no fluid could be obtained by him, although there was every reason to believe that the needle had entered the dural sac. In one case the puncture was made as many as fourteen times. He relates the following case in an infant aged five and a half months which was admitted with fever, stupor, marked opisthotonos and bulging fontanelle. Only a few drops of fluid could be obtained by spinal puncture, although, contrary to his usual practice, he employed aspiration. At the necropsy, in addition to distension of the cerebral ventricles, the pia mater at the base of the brain was converted into a dainty yellowish-white mass with numerous tubercles in it. The same

condition was noted in the spinal cord. The dural sac was distended, not by fluid, but by this oedematous spongy material. There was evidence that the needle had entered the dural sac, but had not injured the cauda equina. The negative result was due to the absence of fluid. Among the author's three or four negative cases, there was one case of uræmia without necropsy. Fürbringer has obtained by spinal puncture fifty and ninety c.cm. of fluid respectively from two cases of uræmia; but in one case where only a few drops could be obtained there was no fluid found after death.—*British Medical Journal.*

DOCTOR—"I wouldn't mind the headache, if I were you." Patient—"Nor I, if I were you."

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