

REPORT OF A CASE OF JUVENILE PARESIS.

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The infrequency with which cases of juvenile paresis are seen in Canada might lead a student of current literature to regard it as unlikely that such cases were to be met with. It is with the purpose therefore of calling the attention of the profession to this rather unique condition that the following case is reported.

It is not our intention to review the entire literature of the subject; we will merely point out certain of the outstanding features that may assist in the diagnosis of other cases.

The condition was first described by Clouston in 1877, under the title of "Juvenile General Paralysis." Since the appearance of this first publication a fairly large number of cases have been reported, and interesting and valuable contributions to the literature of the subject have been made by Alzheimer, Mott and others. One of the most, if not the most important point elucidated by these workers is, that juvenile paresis never appears except in individuals who have suffered from congenital syphilis, in other words syphilis is a necessary etiologic factor in the causation of the disease. A second almost equally interesting fact has been established by Mott, and is illustrated in our case, namely, that the juvenile general paretic may show none of the usual signs of congenital syphilis. The real significance of this is of the utmost interest, and if we grasp it many analogies between this and certain cases of paresis in adults are evident. It is not at all uncommon for instance to get from a paretic a history of syphilis ten or fifteen years antedating the onset of the mental disease, but very frequently these patients show no evidence of a former syphilis, and they are insistent that they were entirely cured; to all outward appearances they were; but years after paresis develops.

So it also frequently happens in the juvenile general paretic the obvious symptoms of congenital syphilis are wanting, but fifteen or twenty years after birth the disease appears. Whether or not syphilis is the necessary factor in the causation of dementia paralytica is not definitely settled, and it would