

## TORONTO MEDICAL SOCIETY.

*Extracts from the Proceedings of the Society.*

## SARCOMA.

Dr. Grasett reported the following case:

Kitty Webb, 20 years of age, lived with her guardian until he married her, at the age of 15. One year after her marriage she had her first child, and one year and nine months after she had her second child.

Admitted Aug. 20th, and examined about the same time. Complained of a large tumour which involved her whole thigh. She has been ill for nineteen months with it. Until this time enjoyed good health and was regular in her habits as to food and drink.

General surroundings at home were pleasant. About twenty months ago she felt a pain in her left leg, about three inches above and to the outer side of the knee. Shortly after it was followed by a swelling. Pain then extended to the knee-cap. Swelling was hard and white. She put on liniment, but it still kept on growing. Two months after noticing it first, changed doctor. The doctor then began poulticing it. Four or five weeks after this time the doctor lanced it and there came away blood and water. Still kept on poulticing it, but since last winter did nothing for it.

*Family history.*—Mother is dead—died in child-birth from a hurt. Child was not born. Father may be living, and was a strong man. Have four sisters and one brother, all healthy.

*State on admission.*—She was very much reduced in flesh, so much so that it was not thought advisable to operate on her and amputate her leg at the hip joint.

Tumour was very large and hard. She complained of a good deal of pain when you touched it. On the 18th of October the dimensions of the tumour were taken. It measured 24 inches long, 31½ inches in circumference, and 32 inches over the nodules.

Complexion blonde, features thin, height medium, she was very much emaciated. Temperature normal.

Morphine was given to allay the pain, and nutritious food to keep up her strength.

The tumour kept on enlarging. Her appetite was good up to the last. About two weeks before she died complained of shortness of breath. On percussing her chest found marked dulness, but, on account of her weakness, did not examine her further.

*Post-mortem Examination by Dr. Teskey.*—The tumour was mostly encapsuled, with well-defined margins and no enlargement of the adjacent lymphatic glands. Upon making a longitudinal incision through it, numerous small disconnected portions of bone were found, especially towards its central part, which appeared to be the remaining traces of the original bone, which had otherwise entirely disappeared. The substance of the tumour was rather soft, mostly pale and translucent in appearance, with yellowish and dark patches, which were the result of fatty degeneration and of extravasated blood undergoing varying stages of degeneration; it also contained several cysts.

*Examination of the rest of the body.*—Brain normal; right pleural cavity contained about a pint of serous effusion, with adhesions of the base of the lung to the diaphragm; heart weighed 8 oz., normal in position and size; right ventricle contained a pale clot, left ventricle contracted; right lung filled with metastatic tumours, so as to completely destroy its functions as a respiratory organ; left lung also similarly affected, but to a much less degree. Several tumours were found growing internally from the parietes of the thorax; liver depressed 2½ inches below the margin of the ribs, slightly congested, weight 3 lbs. 10 oz., no tumours found in it; spleen and kidneys normal; uterus and ovaries normal. A tumour about 2 inches in diameter was found, which had grown towards the abdominal cavity from the body of the second lumbar vertebra. The consistency of all the secondary tumours was very soft, resembling very much that of brain tissue. Upon microscopic examination, it was found that the characteristics of the tumours were those of a round-celled sarcoma, being composed of small, round cells, with but little intercellular substance, and this was especially characteristic of the secondary growths.