

Autopsies on such cases have not been very numerous, but there is enough evidence to show that the enlargement of the pituitary body is not a mere effect of this disease. This case was a sarcoma of the body, and was, no doubt, the cause of the acromegaly. There are now a number of cases on record that go to prove that the disease in the pituitary body is origin of the acromegaly.

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THE EVIL EFFECTS OF EXPERT TESTIMONY.—Dr. Morton Prince, of Boston, in *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, April 30th, has a timely article on the injurious effects of expert testimony on traumatic neuroses. Many cases of hysteria arise from traumatism and are a frequent source of litigation. During the process of these cases, there is much medical examination. The woes, present and prospective, of the plaintiff are given with all the latest improvements. The terrible effects of organic disease of the brain and spinal cord are dilated upon in court. This must be far from beneficial to these patients. In some of these cases they do not recover from their hysteria or neurasthenia for a long time after the trial. No organic disease can be discovered. In these cases the delay in the recovery is due to the evil effects of the evidence given at the trial.

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PTOMAIN, OR ALKALOIDAL POISONING.—Dr. Maurice A. Bruce, of Philadelphia, in *Philadelphia Polyclinic* for April, 1896, points out that deficient intestinal peristalsis causes fæcal stasis. This leads to an anæmic condition of the mucous membrane and insufficient gland secretion. These changes are followed by a catarrhal condition and decomposition in the chyme. Peptone itself has been shown to be a poison of considerable power. Febrin, when digested by artificial gastric juice, yields a poison known as peptotoxin. Some of these poisons act like curare, others like digitalis, atropin, or picrotoxin. The nature of alkaloidal products varies with the stage of decomposition. At first the poisonous action may be slight, at a later stage more virulent, but still later they may become broken up and inert. In atonic gastric catarrhs, with flabby, tooth-marked tongues, there may be given the following: Tr. nux. vom., ℥xv.; acid hydrochlor., dil., ℥xx.; essence pepsin, 3 ss; tr. calumbæ, ad 3 ii. To be given before meals. In the neurasthenic, with over-secretion: Bismuth subgallate, gr. v.; salol, gr. iii.; ext. nux. vom., gr. 1/6. In capsule an hour after eating.