

ACUTE PURULENT MENINGITIS IN A YOUNG INFANT.

J. C. CAMERON, M.D.—Dr. Oskar Klotz read the report of this case.

Post mortem:—Body that of a poorly nourished female infant, 43 cm. long. There was general lividity of the body, particularly over the abdomen. External orifices normal. Reddish discoloration of buttocks. There was no petechial rash, nor blotches on the skin.

Head:—Scalp was negative. On removing the scalp, there was found, externally, congestion of the post. halves of the parietal bones and the upper half of the occipital bone, as if the remains of an external hæmatoma. The dura mater showed no change, externally. The vessels of the pia-arachnoid were everywhere injected, but chiefly along the vessels over the base of the brain and the cerebellum and those in the longitudinal sulcus. Following the vessels over the superior surface of the brain were diffuse purulent areas. The pia-arachnoid dipping down into the longitudinal sinus was clear of pus. There were also diffuse purulent tracts following the vessels over the sylvian fissure, and over the temporal lobes: this was quite marked. The base of the brain extending from the optic chiasma back to the cerebellum, also, showed this diffuse purulent inflammation. There was, also, an area of pus between the inferior portion of the cerebellum and the medulla. Middle ears were healthy.

Cord:—On exposure of the cord one could see that the whole of its surface was injected. Stripping up the dura mater this was found to be clear and it was the vessels of the pia that were congested. Diffuse purulent areas were found along the whole length of the cord, chiefly along its sides and posteriorly.

A. D. Acute Purulent Meningitis, (Probably Epidemic). Acute Gastro-Entero-Colitis. Patent F. O.

Notanda:—The case was very interesting in demonstrating an acute meningitis in an infant eight days old. Unfortunately the post-mortem was obtained only on the third day after the death of the child, and the definite bacteriological diagnosis of the infection could not be made out. The presence, however, in the meningeal exudate of Gram-negative diplococci, appearing both intra and extra-cellular, and having the appearance of meningococci is very suggestive of the infection being one of the epidemic variety. Coupled with this is the negative evidence of any pyæmic foci elsewhere, and of the healthy nature of the middle ear cavities.

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Pus from meninges of Brain:—The direct smear showed many pus cells. There were also many bacteria of different kinds:—Gram negative bacilli. Gram negative diplococci,—a few intra-cellular, and of the appearance of meningococci.

(To be continued.)