

A CASE OF CONCEALED HYDROCEPHALUS.

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The history of the patient, G. M. was briefly as follows :

The mother and father are alive, and healthy. The child G. M. was born at 8 months without the use of instruments. Mother had previously two miscarriages and since has had two healthy children at full term. There is no history of lues or tuberculosis. The child never had a rash nor sore eyes and was strong and bright up to seven years of age. About two years ago (1896) patient suffered from otitis media, without complaining of any pain. His right ear has discharged ever since. Was always nervous but bright for his years. He was circumcised and the nervousness improved for a time but returned. The parents noticed that his speech became thick, then the eyesight began to fail, and with this there was a lack of co-ordination in the legs, his ankles turned over, he stumbled and was unable to come down stairs without holding on to something. He now took to screaming and shouting so loudly and persistently that he could not be quieted and the parents were obliged to leave the neighborhood and move into different houses. Gradually his power of locomotion gave out so that finally he was unable to walk at all. In the morning his mother would bring him down and sit him on a low box where he would sit all day without attempting to move. Sometimes with his head between his hands like a melancholic; sometimes he would lean to the right and draw up the right leg. On other days he would keep up a ceaseless motion of his hands and head and make inarticulate noises. The inco-ordination spread to the arms, more power being retained in the left than right arm. He was unable to feed himself, and could only convey a crust to his mouth when very hungry; liquids ran from his mouth but this was not from any paralysis but probably from a disinclination to swallow.

He was admitted to the Children's Hospital when the following history was taken:—Patient lies in a stupid condition, is quite blind, does not answer questions, voids his urine in the bed, is constipated, eats fairly well, does not vomit, and is very irritable; legs are drawn up, cannot stand, sensations normal as far as can be made out. Patient can move both arms and legs. No facial paralysis, pupils moderately dilated, do not react to light. Patient is an imbecile, makes some inarticulate noises. Hearing seems very acute but does not respond or show any intelligence when questioned. Dr. Macallum examined the optic discs and reported:—Discs pale bluish-white, vessels seem narrowed. No optic atrophy. Right ear has a purulent discharge, small in amount and foul, perforation in inferior quadrant, left ear. Left tympanum retracted, no sign of discharge. Dr. Peters proposed an exploratory operation, and the head, after careful preparation was trephined over the motor area on the right side. When the button was removed, no bulging of the membranes occurred and nothing abnormal being seen the Dura was not opened, the button being and the wound closed. The wound healed by first intention.