

The rarity of certain diseases, notably malaria, is peculiar to the locality. In regard to rare conditions, however, these come in a very irregular manner. Thus trichinosis was only met with in two cases during the 20 years covered by the hospital post-mortem records, and both of these occurred within a few months.

I may instance a remark of Dr. Osler in his text-book to the effect that in his Montreal cases internal hæmorrhagic pachymeningitis had been absent while it was of frequent occurrence in the service at the Blockley Alms House in Philadelphia. Personally I have found this condition to be of frequent occurrence in Montreal, but only in autopsies in coroners' cases, this special class of material not having been available in Dr. Osler's time.

It is to be regretted that the means at our disposal do not permit of the publication at present of a full analysis of the pathological material in the autopsy records. It is hoped to do so later in a series of shorter reprinted articles. In addition to the present series of 934 post-mortems, we also hope shortly to index a series of 700 post-mortems, which were made by Dr. Osler during the period from 1876, when the pathological department of the hospital was first established, to 1882, as well as a series of 400 medico-legal autopsies made since 1893 by myself.

It must be mentioned that the series now indexed is composed of autopsies made before any properly equipped pathological laboratory existed in connection with the hospital. In consequence the bacteriological and microscopical study is much more scanty than would otherwise have been the case. At present, thanks to a better laboratory and a larger staff we are able to follow the current methods of the modern laboratories, in which a microscopical and bacteriological examination of all the principal organs is made in every case as a matter of routine. On comparing the present and past pathological work of the General Hospital, what impresses me most is the high standard of work done by my predecessors, Drs. Osler and Adami, under very unfavourable circumstances as to laboratory equipment and assistance.

I have great pleasure in recording my appreciation of the substantial encouragement which the Hospital Committee of Management have given to the pathological laboratory at a time when very heavy calls were being made upon the Hospital funds.

We hope in the future to be able to keep our pathological indexes published up to date and would be glad to see an inter-laboratory arrangement whereby copies of autopsy reports could be furnished to persons interested in studying any special class of cases and willing to defray the expense of the clerical work involved.

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