

Conversely, hypoplasia of the suprarenals has been found in anencephalous monsters; but the relation between the two developmental abnormalities is doubtful, Zander⁸ regarding the lesion of the nervous system as primary and Alexander⁹ considering the suprarenal defect as primary. Very possibly, however, the failure of development is concomitant, in any case this association is not a strong argument in support of the influence of the suprarenal cortex on the growth of the body, for the hypoplasia of the suprarenals appears to affect the cortex and medulla equally and not to be especially marked in the cortex. Hypoplasia of the suprarenals has been met with in a few cases of retarded sexual development, and in the case of osteogenesis imperfecta Lovett and Nichols¹⁰ found the internal organs normal with the exception of the small size of the suprarenals. It has also been suggested, but in no way proved, that mollities ossium is connected with suprarenal inadequacy.

There thus appears to be evidence that in some instances pathological changes in the cortex of the suprarenal glands, whether in the direction of hyperplasia or of imperfect development, are associated with similar conditions of growth generally, and especially of the genital organs.

2. The question whether the suprarenal cortex has the power of neutralizing certain toxins is a subject about which very little is known, and on which it is dangerous though attractive to speculate. It was formerly thought that the suprarenal bodies destroyed effete blood-pigment, but this conception has been given up for want of proof. That the cortex may exert antidotal properties is suggested by Myers¹¹ observations that cobra poison, after being mixed with an emulsion of the suprarenal cortex was no longer toxic, control experiments with emulsions of the suprarenal medulla and of other organs being negative. Experimental infections with various organisms, such as bacillus, tuberculosis, slow diphtherial intoxication and lead poisoning (Gouget)¹² have been found to give rise to hypertrophy of the cortex of the adrenal glands, thus suggesting increased functional activity. It may be mentioned incidentally that according to Mulon¹³ the histological evidence of over-activity (*hyperépiphrie*) of the cortex is increased pigmentation and diminished fat in its cells.

Adenomas or nodular hyperplasia of the suprarenal cortex are found in a certain number of autopsies. In 6,200 autopsies at St. George's Hospital, London, adenomas were present in 11 cases, or 0.2 per cent. (Hodge), and at Guy's Hospital in 0.7 per cent. of autopsies (Richards). They are sometimes found in cases of chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, but special attention has been drawn to the association of cortical adenomas with granular kidneys and high blood-pressure, and it has been pointed out that