

crepitation. When the bone is entirely perforated, the fungus raises the skin and appears as a rounded, elastic tumour, beating synchronously with the pulse, and more rarely with the movements of respiration. If the internal table has been absorbed, the tumour is totally or partially reducible, and the osseous perforation can then be felt. Sometimes this reduction of the tumour induces cerebral disturbances, such as syncope, convulsions, epileptic seizure; at other times it takes place without any accidents, as in the present case. These cerebral symptoms often appear spontaneously, and, consequent upon the progress of the disease, the patient experiences then numbness of the limbs, syncopes, paralysis, coma—in short, all the signs of cerebral compression. Death, then, is not far off. Sometimes the tumour ulcerates, and the patient dies from hemorrhage or exhaustion. The duration of the disease may be pretty long, but, when once the bone is perforated, it is seldom prolonged beyond one or two years. Death might occur a great deal sooner, as is shown by the present case, which went through all its stages in five months.

As you may have noticed, at the reading of this observation, the tumour was the occasion of an error of diagnosis, and was mistaken for an aneurism. Instances are not uncommon in the records of science, where a similar mistake has been committed, and the diagnosis of encephaloid of the bones of the skull is certainly surrounded with certain difficulties, which, however, are not insurmountable, as can be demonstrated by the following considerations :

The reducibility by pressure, the pulsations synchronous with the beatings of the pulse, allowed us at once, in this case, to range the tumour in the class of tumours communicating with the cranial cavity, and to eliminate from the diagnosis all the morbid growths situated at the surface of the vault of the skull. Amongst the former, encephalocele, aneurisms of the middle meningeal artery, and fungus of the dura mater, were the only ones which might have induced a mistake. But encephalocele is a congenital disease, or produced by a blow, a fall, with fracture of the skull, besides having its seat generally at the