

transitory and changeable, corresponding more or less closely to the pathological-anatomical alterations at the basis.

6. The usually ready and prompt response to appropriate treatment outside of the vascular and degenerative condition.

Lumbar puncture at times also furnishes valuable information, for according to some French authors, an increase of leucocytes in the cerebrospinal fluid in the absence of a suppurative condition, is indicative of a syphilitic nature.

The specific serum—reaction of Wasserman—which requires the employment of an extract derived from syphilitic tissue in conjunction with the serum of some animal (rabbit) immunized to the blood of some other animal, (sheep), is too complicated and difficult to be utilized except by regular laboratory investigators. The same may be said of Noguchi's serum reaction. Noguchi has also reported successful results with a so-called butyric acid reaction, which, if it prove reliable, is much easier of application, so that it can be utilized in the busy life of the clinician.

Some other investigators have been experimenting with a solution of taurin along similar lines and with this the writer has had some experience, but the number and results of such examinations are not of such a nature as to justify any report being made or conclusion drawn.

With all these investigations there will doubtless eventually evolve some method of facilitating the establishment of an earlier and in doubtful cases of a more positive diagnosis of a syphilitic basis in diseases of the nervous system and so enable one to adopt the earlier and to carry out the necessary treatment so long as there is evidence of the presence of any syphilitic infectiousness or toxicity in the tissues or fluids of the body.

It will be seen that the prognosis in this diseased condition is not a very bright one. This unfavorable outlook, to some extent, depends upon the particular pathological lesion existing at the time. The meningitic and gummatous conditions apparently yield the most readily to treatment, the arterial and diffuse changes much less so and the so-called degenerative changes least so, if at all.