

During the intervals he is like other children and talks and plays as they do, but is often irritable and cannot be contradicted.

At four years of age he had a severe form of measles.

Inquiry into the family history found no record of nervous troubles or tuberculosis.

On October 12, 1895, his condition was that of a well-nourished, intelligent French child of eight years. On the head there was seen a depressed area of bone, oval in shape, just above and in front of the horizontal limb of the Sylvian fissure. It measured 3 cm. from above down, 2 cm. from before backwards. The depressed area presented visible pulsation, not diminished by pressure on the occipital and temporal arteries. This, however, could only be slightly felt, and on light palpation.

Examination of the optic discs showed no evidence of a neuritis or other abnormal changes.

The respiratory, vascular, digestive and urinary systems were normal.

From October 3rd to October 23rd he had six fits, similar in general characters to those described above.

On October 23rd, 1895, he was given chloroform and the head shaved and prepared as usual for operation.

An omega-shaped osteoplastic flap was raised and the dura mater found adherent to the opening in the skull. The opening presented a smooth rounded border. There was no bone found to fill this gap, and the conclusion that it was due to pressure absorption seemed the only one possible. Beneath the gap in the skull were found two thin-walled cysts, each containing about one ounce of clear fluid. The portion of the cyst wall in contact with the cerebrum was very thin, transparent and could not be removed without lacerating the brain. Electrical stimulation of the cerebral cortex in the floor of the cyst and also in the neighbourhood failed to cause any muscular contraction. The osteoplastic flap was replaced, a special opening being provided for the introduction of an iodoform gauze drain. He made a perfectly smooth recovery.

He was discharged on the 10th of January, 1896. The sinus was completely closed. The child had had no fit since the operation and seemed to be in perfect health.