

PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

THROMBOSIS OF CEREBRAL SINUSES AND VEINS.

OSKAR KLOTZ, M.D. The specimen we have before us was obtained from a young woman, aged nineteen, who had a short time previously been confined. On the day previous to her death, blood cultures were taken, all of which proved to be sterile. At autopsy there was evidence in the uterine wall of small and localized septic processes in the nature of encapsulated abscesses. One of these was directly beneath the serosa on the anterior wall of the uterus and had caused a slight inflammatory exudate between it and the bladder. In other respects the uterus showed nothing remarkable. The blood vessels and various organs showed no evidence of a septicæmic process at the time of autopsy. In the brain, however, a remarkable condition was encountered. The left lateral sinus, beginning at a point half an inch from the descending portion, was thrombosed by a grey clot as far as the torcular Herophyli. From here the thrombus extended into the straight sinus, crossing the tentorium and into the great vein of Galen. From this vessel thrombi could be followed into the various tributary branches which form this vein. Thus it is seen that the left superior cerebellar and the left inferior cerebral veins were occluded, while passing forwards the veins of the choroid plexus and the veins of the corpus striatum were completely plugged. It was also seen that the veins passing over the optic thalamus and caudate nucleus on the left side were occluded. As a result of this extensive thrombosis the corpus callosum throughout its extent was softened and broken down, and nothing but a soft debris remained of the septum lucidum. In the left hemisphere the optic thalamus and the caudate nucleus showed extensive disintegration, and the process of softening was also present in the internal capsule and corpus striatum of this side. On the right side the degenerative processes were not so marked, and beginning softening was only to be noted in the optic thalamus and the corpus callosum. On this side the internal capsule and corpus striatum were undamaged. With the extensive softening that had taken place in the left hemisphere many petechial hæmorrhages and evidence of thrombosed capillaries were to be seen in the substance about the ventricles. And, further, there had been a fair amount of hæmorrhage into the left lateral ventricle. In looking at the left hemisphere from its inner surface the extensive degree of this disintegration of brain substance is readily appreciated.

It is most probable that at a previous date this patient had suffered from a septicæmic process, which had cleared up, save for the localized abscesses in the uterine wall and the progressive thrombi in the sinuses