

disease as described by Kussmaul and Maier (Case I.) as our guide and dealing only with such in which the diagnosis was fully established by autopsy or microscopical section, there remain forty cases. It is possible that Case II. of Kussmaul and Maier as well as those of Benedict and Sabin may have been of this nature, but as the cases were only clinically observed and the diagnosis rested upon a study of the excised skin nodules, some doubt still remains as to the exact nature of the process.

The mortality as indicated in the study of the forty undoubted cases is one hundred per cent, not including the case reported by Schmorl, dying after an interval of two years of portal thrombosis. This is rather astounding, particularly in view of the fact that the disease has no prominent symptomatology and the apparent progress of the clinical events does not indicate that we are dealing with virulent infection. This high mortality is rather to be viewed in the light that only the fatal cases are properly diagnosed and reported. As the typical lesions are found upon the vessels of internal organs, the skin being involved in only a few cases, no opportunity is given the clinician to analyze the lesions. The clinical diagnosis was made in four cases, one of which died and was verified at autopsy (Schmorl). This rather grave outlook for the proper recognition of periarteritis nodosa must also be viewed from another angle, which is this: Periarteritis nodosa is not a disease entity, but is only a complication of lesions present in an infection which has many other manifestations. As one reviews the well-studied cases there are many points of similarity strongly suggesting a common bacterial infection which, be it through chance or because of a previous preparation of the soil, has led to a localization in and around the arteries. Undoubtedly in many instances a similar localization and infection of milder character involves various systems of the arteries, but in the absence of marked clinical signs or serious pathological change, the cases proceed to recovery without our attention being called to the characteristic lesion. It would appear to us, as we will point out later, that the condition is,