

THE SPASMODIC TYPE OF SYRINGOMYELIA.*

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Syringomyelia was divided by the great authority on this disease, Herman Schlesinger, into six main types, namely: (a) Typical Syringomyelia. (b) Motor. (c) Sensory. (d) Trophic, (e) Tabetic and (f) Pachymeningitic Syringomyelia.

In 1900, Dr. Pierre Marie presented and identified the first five cases of this type, and shortly afterwards his pupil, Guillain, wrote an elaborate thesis, giving a complete description of these same patients, under the name of the Spasmodic type of Syringomyelia. In 1906, with Alquin and again with Raymond, Guillain added two more cases to the series, while Raymond with Francois reported the eighth example in the same year. Verger followed another case, which showed similar symptoms during life to autopsy and records a central glioma as the actual pathological condition, while in 1908 Alexander Bruce, in the *Review of Neurology*, wrote concerning a patient with some resemblance to Guillain's series, who may probably be regarded as possessing either the same or a related type of the disease.

In presenting this patient, whose symptoms correspond to the typical instances of Guillain, the different features of the case are each described, followed by immediate reference to the corresponding condition in the cases reported.

The most important characteristic of the Spasmodic type of syringomyelia is undoubtedly what may be termed *the attitude of the patient*.

This little girl is 16 years old, and the disease has steadily advanced since the age of five, the slow progress being a feature of this condition.

As she stands up, her deformity is apparent. The head slightly bent forward nestles between the strongly marked borders of the trapezius. The thorax, if viewed posteriorly, arching forwards in its upper part, shows a marked concavity in its superior part in front, and this has been termed *thorax en bateau*.

The spine exhibits a most extreme degree of scoliosis, the curvature being to the left side.

The arms are drawn to the side of the body, the right, which is at present the most affected, lying across the body with the

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