

nine recoveries. In fourteen cases of infants under one year treated by serum nine recovered.

The most striking phenomena following the use of the serum is the amelioration of many symptoms. The temperature drops either suddenly or gradually, a crisis occurring commonly within 48 hours. With the subsidence of fever comes improvement of other symptoms. A cessation of pain and hyperaesthesia, clearing of the mental condition, the comatose state giving way to improved intelligence, and once more the child is interested in the surroundings, and takes food. Retraction of the head and Kernig's sign are the last to yield, some days after disappearance of all other signs. The whole course of the disease is much shortened, to a week or ten days in many instances. This shows a mighty contrast to its usual course of five to eight weeks in cases recovering without serum treatment. The laboratory showings are of extreme interest. The fluid can be tested microscopically, and important changes marked, after the use of the serum. Following the first injection, there is observed a lessening in the number of the meningi cocci in the fluid outside the cells. After successive injections a lessening of these inside the cells, the organisms become swollen, indistinct, and, moreover, refuse to grow in cultures. Finally they disappear altogether, and the amount of fluid becomes rapidly less. This effect on the organisms, since it can be definitely followed from day to day, furnishes objective proof of the efficiency of the serum, and this evidence can be proven in the laboratory by a disinterested investigator, thus obviating personal enthusiasm of the clinician. The consensus of opinion of the members of the Pediatric Society was as follows: In every case of cerebrospinal meningitis lumbar puncture should be done at once. If the fluid thus obtained be turbid, from 20 to 30 c.c. of the antimeningitis serum should at once be injected into the spinal canal, without waiting for a bacteriological report of the extracted fluid. Turbid or purulent fluid usually shows the germ. Should it show pyogenic organisms or pneumococci, no harm will have been done. The injection should be repeated daily for three or four days, or until symptoms are improved. It is significant that the more recent reports of the use of the serum show better results than the earlier reports, which seems to point to the fact that experience as to procedure, dose, time, etc., is bringing about better results. The earlier the condition is diagnosed and treated, the quicker and better are the results. The blood count is also of great interest. In many cases, at the outset, the leucocytes show 30,000, but within four or five days fall to 12,000, with an increase of polynuclear leucocytes.