

Miscellaneous.

Basedow's Disease Treated with Antithyroidin.

Dr. Aronheim reports the case of a girl seventeen years old, who suffered from bilateral exophthalmos, struma, and a frequent pulse. After having been treated ineffectually for some time, antithyroidin was given, with the final result that all the symptoms were remarkably improved.

In a second case, no less typical, the serum also did more good than all other remedies previously employed.

The author calls attention to the many cases of Basedow's disease where one or more of the typical symptoms are wanting. Thus, in one instance there was no exophthalmos, but palpitation of the heart, precordial distress, dyspnea, general weakness, anorexia, cough, nocturnal sweats, insomnia, a moderate struma, dilatation of the ventricles, and slight dulness at both bases of the lungs. A diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis was seriously considered, but the sputum examination was negative. A teaspoonful of the following prescription was then given three times a day: antithyroidin, 4. (1 dram); Vin. Tokay, 20. (5 drams); aqua, 100 (3 1-3 oz.). After two doses, subjective improvement was noticeable. The dyspnea, cough and heart action no longer caused distress, and the temperature soon returned to normal. The dose was soon increased by one-half, and it did not take long until the catarrhal symptoms and the dilatation of the heart disappeared. At present the patient feels perfectly well, although the goitre has not diminished in size. From time to time she takes 3 to 4 drops of the serum three times a day, diluted with wine and water.

J. M. A. Gevers Leuven also reports a case of Basedow's disease with the following most prominent symptoms: Tremor of hands, tongue and face, dilatation of the heart to the left and right, systolic murmurs over the heart, exophthalmos, excessive perspiration, increased reflexes, general nervousness, a pulse frequency of 135, and struma. The usual remedies had no effect whatsoever. The patient was then ordered to bed and antithyroidin was given in the following doses: At first 0.5 Gm. (8 min.) twice a day by mouth; 0.5 Gm. three times a day, 0.75 Gm. (12 min.) t. i. d.; 1 Gm. (15 min.) t. i. d.; 1 Gm. twice a day. After about 90 Cc. (3 oz.) had been used, the treatment was restricted to general tonic drugs. The tremors, perspiration and pulse frequency were improved remarkably, the thyroid tumor softened, the weight increased. Disagreeable after-effects were not seen.—*Muench. med. Woch.*, 1906, No. 32.