

The last case, which was the fatal one, had no treatment for some weeks preceding her last illness.

The size of the thyroid enlargement appeared to make no difference on the progress of the case. About the same proportion of the cases, with little or no enlargement, did well as of those where there was a large goitre.

It will be observed that I prescribed other remedies along with the thymus in several of the cases, such as belladonna, bromide of potassium, sodium phosphate, etc. This would diminish the value of my observations, if I were endeavoring to maintain that the thymus gland had any specific value; but, as my thesis is that it has no specific influence, the administration of other remedies is not of material importance.

An important point which should be borne in mind is that the most remarkable of the cases of recorded benefit have been those in which the lamb's thymus has been employed. Möbius and Taty and Guérin, who failed to observe benefit, expressly mention that they employed the calf's thymus. I am not able to give exact particulars as to which form has been employed in all of my cases. The tabloids used were supplied by Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., who informed me they were made from the thymus of very young calves. The extract of thymus was prepared for me by Mr. White, the pharmacist to St. Thomas's Hospital. It was prepared from lamb's thymus whenever it was procurable, and at other times from calf's. The calf's thymus was used in 2 cases, in which large doses were used.

It seems unlikely that any important therapeutic effect should exist in the lamb's thymus and not in the calf's; the reported success of cases treated with tabloids of calf's thymus may be set against the failures.

The conclusion at which I have arrived is that the thymus gland possesses no specific action in Graves's disease. I have found it in most cases to have no effect either on the heart, on the goitre, or on the exophthalmos. At the same time it appears to be a remedy of some value, improving the general condition, and, in this way, may assist toward the recovery of the patient. I should, at present, place it in the same class of remedies as cod-liver oil.

I am of opinion that the dose, to be of any use, should be at least one or two drachms a day, of the fresh gland or its equivalent, in the form of extract or powder.

AMŒBOID CELLS IN ASCITIC FLUID.

VON LEYDEN and SCHAUDINN (*Sitzungsbericht der Kgl. Preuss. Akad. der Wissensch. zu Berlin*, 30 Juli, 1896) report the discovery of an amœboid protozoon in ascitic fluid. This