

PERIARTERITIS NODOSA.*

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Up to the present the literature contains the reports of fifty-two cases described as periarteritis nodosa. In addition to these there are probably a number of others which, having been encountered in the early or late process of development, were not recognized as belonging to this peculiar disease of the arteries. On the other hand, some confusion has developed in the use of the term periarteritis or polyarteritis in that a number of authors, not clearly recognizing the individuality of the lesion, described cases of clearly syphilitic origin as types of this condition. We have to-day come to appreciate clearly enough the peculiar clinical and pathological picture in the true forms of periarteritis nodosa to exclude the specific syphilitic nodular arteritis from this group. Hence we are bound to reduce the above number of reported cases to forty-three by omitting the syphilitic cases of Wilks, Pellizari, Baumgarten, Gilbert and Lion, Bruce and Raymond. There can be no hesitation in dropping these cases from discussion, even though the authors define them under the term periarteritis nodosa. Rokitansky's case was the first to be observed, but a clear description of the disease and its pathology was first offered by Kussmaul and Maier in 1866. Their case was clear cut and with it subsequent findings were easily compared. Taking the character of the

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