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PRIMARY INTRA DURAL TUMOURS OF THE OPTIC NERVE

(With Report of a Case.)

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Primary intra-dural tumours of the optic nerve are of such clinical interest and rare occurrence, that a case which has recently been under observation and treatment of the writer, seems not unworthy of being recorded.

Up to the year 1901, when Byer's excellent and comprehensive monograph dealing with this subject appeared, (to which I am indebted for much of the information hereafter given) 102 cases had been reported. Wishart of Edinburgh, in 1833, being the first to publish an account of this unusual condition.

Ætiologically, it seems to be an affection of child life. Eighty per cent. of the cases reported occurring in persons under 15 years of age and "there is a tendency for females to be affected oftener than males and the left nerve, than the right." In a few cases injury appears to have been the starting point of these growths, while febrile affections have been noted to be frequently associated with the commencement of their development.

Macroscopically, they possess a capsule formed by the dural sheath, which can as a rule be readily "stripped from the structure beneath." In size they vary, reaching in some cases the dimensions of a goose's egg, in others being so small as to produce no proptosis. Their position may be at any portion of the nerve but are usually found at its posterior extremity. In shape they are generally pyriform. In "a great majority of cases the excised tumor is incomplete and must necessarily have been connected with the remaining portion within the cranium."