

of fluid, it was neither so rapid nor so extensive. He was not tapped again.

In a letter from the patient, written about two years after operation, the patient reports himself as much better, and holding his own in a very satisfactory manner.

Dr. Corson says: "Considering the condition this man was in at the time of operation, and complicated, too, by syphilis in its secondary stage, the result obtained by this operation seems to me remarkable. In the few cases I have seen reported of successful Talma operations the patients have undergone repeated tapplings until the collateral circulation was equal to the emergency. In this case the collateral circulation seemed to have been established quite rapidly . . . The success attained in this advanced case would point to a much greater success for the operation if done in the beginning of the cirrhotic process."

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## Editorial Notes.

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**Ophthalmotoxic Tests.**—The recently discovered fact that the topical application of the toxine of a specific micro-organism will cause a very definite local reaction in a subject suffering with the corresponding infections seems to be opening new fields in the realm of diagnosis. The application of this principle in tuberculous disease by von Pirque was the first step toward its practical employment. His tuberculin "vaccination," or "cuti-reaction," as it is called, has proved to be of considerable assistance in the discovery of tuberculous disease in children. Calmette's suggestion, however, that the tuberculin be applied to the conjunctiva has developed a much more trustworthy method. The preparation is instilled into the eye, and in tuberculous subjects there develops a very distinct reddening, which lasts for from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. In the healthy subject the reaction, if present at all, is very much milder and of shorter duration.

Calmette advises the use of a solution in sterile physiological salt solution of the tuberculous toxins obtained from Koch's "old tuberculin" by precipitating with 95 per cent. alcohol. Dr. Baldwin, of Saranac, prefers to use a weaker solution, and advises a one-third or one-half per cent. strength. The amount used for a single test is one drop, and Dr. Baldwin suggests that enough for one or two tests be put up in sealed glass tubules, which can be easily opened and used as needed.