

soft, resembling more pancreatic emulsion than brain substance. No effusion of serum was found in the lateral ventricle of that side. Another flap about the thickness of four lines, having been lifted up from the other lobe, an abscess the size of a pigeon's egg, containing sanious pus, was found. Several fragments of bone were floating in it, two of them were the size of a common pea. The course of the abscess was parallel to that of the fissure of Sylvius, this last forming its lower floor. By cutting a little further on, the matter was seen to have made irruption into the corpus callosum and adjoining parts. The extravasation of pus had evidently been sudden, as demonstrated by the torn appearance of the lining of the abscess there; and this was probably the cause of the sudden death. The remote and immediate cause of death being determined on, no further examination was made.

*Remarks.*—Although the case here narrated may not possess the merit of novelty, for many cases of the same nature have been reported, yet it will serve to illustrate whatever certainty or uncertainty may exist in the diagnosis of this class of brain affections. The brain being such a compound organ as regard to its parts and their different functions, that any lesion of those parts will be accompanied by symptoms correspondingly different. Thus any case of this nature if carefully reported, cannot miss to be of some help not only to students, but also to practical physicians, specially if verified by post-mortem-examination.

Although this case may generally be considered as not uncommon, it, however, presents some facts truly interesting to a faithful observer:—

1st. That lesions of the cerebral hemispheres, however extensive they may be, do not necessarily arrest the natural functions of the mind, provided the cortical layer is healthy, and is connected with the thalami by nervous fibres that have not yet undergone the process of softening.

2nd. That the impression received to the thalamus and striatum is slowly elaborated there on account of its slower communication through the influential arc caused by deficiency of power of those fibres; hence the slowness of conception with persons having softening of the brain.

3rd. That although physiologists are generally willing to attribute mental capability in proportion to the volume and development of the cerebrum, we are not to overlook that it is like other organs, of a simple instrumental nature. The mode of action being an instrument, of course if that instrument becomes absolutely imperfect, the action becomes imperfect too; but on the other hand, if that instrument preserves a certain amount of power, impressions given to it will be slowly and effectually brought to their final purpose. This, therefore, is in my