

pain and heat, namely, two months prior to delivery. "Hydrocephalus—whatever its results—is originally an inflammatory affection situate in the substance of the central parts of the brain, generally terminating by *ramollissement* of those parts, combined with serous effusion," and, as an inflammatory affection, is characterized by one of the symptoms of inflammation—heat.

In answer to the former question: most probably in the ventricles, these became expanded into large elliptical cavities, and, adopting the description of the first living pathologist, "the cerebral mass around the ventricles, especially towards the top of the head, became attenuated. Internally and inferiorly, the serum by its pressure flattened the corpora striata and optic thalami, and passing into the third ventricle, it forced these bodies asunder also; the corpora quadrigemina became smoothed, the commissures stretched, and the grey commissure wasted; the pillars of the fornix were forced apart, and, with the septum, driven up against the corpus callosum."† The relative situation of things having been thus changed, the fluid still continued to increase until what remained of the brain, no longer bore any resemblance to what it should have been.

A question here naturally suggests itself: how are we to account for the fact, that the brain can have its substance absorbed; its structure completely destroyed, and yet consistent with life? While the simplest derangement of its functions, is attended with so much peril, during its scarcely less vegetative infant life.

8th. *The strabismus, talipes, and fixed flexure of the fingers and toes.* These malformed conditions—intra uterine symptoms of the congenital disease had evidently existed for a considerable period. The flexors of the fingers and toes had contracted some time prior to birth, and remaining in that condition, the palmar surfaces of the phalanges had been arrested in their developement. This deformity was so great, that tenotomy could not have restored them to a straightened condition, without partial dislocation.

As obstetricians are agreed that the diagnosis of hydrocephalus, *ante partum*, is at all times difficult, might not this abnormal position of the smaller joints materially assist in forming an opinion, in arm and footling cases?

Lastly. *Recovery*—Which, notwithstanding a severe illness, was rapid and satisfactory.

Montreal, July, 1856.

* Abercrombie on diseases of the brain, 2nd Ed., p. 148.

† Rokitsansky's Pathological Anatomy, vol. 3, p. 275.