

On the 28th December, I was sent for to see the child, as the parents were anxious to have something done for the tumor; and hoping that it might in some way or other be made to heal, I prescribed a mild astringent lotion, without, however, any further expectation than that it would lessen the secretion constantly pouring out from the exterior. The result supported this view, for under the use of the application the abraded surface cicatrized. Almost simultaneously with the stoppage of the discharge, the head began to enlarge, although I was unaware of such being the case until re-sent for on the 28th January, 1856, I then discovered that the infant was labouring under well marked symptoms of hydrocephalus. The medical treatment (mercurials, diuretics, &c.,) usually adopted in such cases was tried but without deriving any benefit from it, as the head kept on enlarging until the 24th April, when it had attained the size of 26½ inches in circumference, and 17 inches from ear to ear over the vertex; it was furthermore remarkably tense, so much so that, to the anxious eyes of the parents, it seemed on the point of bursting. No amelioration occurring after a continued perseverance of the above remedial measures, but the case becoming rather the worse, at the earnest solicitation of the parents that something more might be done for the relief of the child from its evident distress, I advised puncturing the brain; another physician was sent for in consultation, and on the 14th April I performed the operation in the usual manner. Half a pint of a transparent colourless fluid was drawn off, and the head was then carefully bandaged, the child apparently experienced much relief from the operation, and none of the evil results occasionally witnessed were entailed. The paracentesis was repeated on April 19th, 26th; May 5th, 19th, 23rd, 29th; June 9th, 16th, 23rd; July 8th, 15th, 23rd; August 1st, 11th, 18th, 25th, making in all 17 times; the amount of fluid drawn off at each operation gradually increased until it measured a pint. But besides these copious evacuations a yet larger quantity of serous liquid absolutely escaped, since after each operation an unknown leakage drained away for 1 or 2 days until the puncture healed, and it probably exceeded the amount measured at the time of the operation. After the tapping of the 26th August symptoms of encephalitis manifested themselves, and the child died on Sept. 1st. No post-mortem examination was performed as I did not think it necessary to urge the propriety of it, in opposition to the feelings of the parents. Nor was there any reason to expect the presence of any deviation from the pathological peculiarities of similar cases. The cranial bones were distinctly disarticulated from each other and floating as it were on the fluid beneath. I was inclined to believe that the encephalitic symptoms were rather of the cerebral than the meningeal type,