Current Literature

I. VEGETATIVE NEUROLOGY

2. ENDOCRINOPATHIES.

Bergé, A., Schulman, E. PITUITARY POLYURIA. [*Presse Méd.*, Dec. 5, 1918.]

This patient showed a variable polyuria, pronounced at night. The output of urine at times measured more fluid than that taken in the twenty-four hours. The food did not seem to modify the output. The urine seemed normal. When the patient was given the extract of the posterior lobe the polyuria was diminished. Case necropsy showed eight gummata in the hypophysis, mostly in the pituitary.

Olaechea, M. G. PITUITARY SYNDROME. [*Anales de la Facultad de Medicina*, Sept.-Oct., 1918.]

This case history is said to be similar to one reported by Claude and Lhermitte in 1917 as a case of infundibular syndrome from a tumor in the third ventricle. The first symptoms in this patient, a woman of 35 years of age, were impairment of vision and diminished sensation to touch in the right side of the face, mucosa of the teeth, and a marked hyperesthesia on the right side of the tongue. There was right-sided deafness and exaggerated tendon reflexes. Bilateral choked disk explained the failing vision. In walking she deviated to the right and the head was bent to the right. Blindness was total after 10 months and muscular contractions interfered with chewing. There were periods of narcolepsy and polyuria. The cerebrospinal fluid contained tubercle bacilli and a more or less diffused tuberculous leptomeningitis was diagnosed—which pressing on the infundibulus, the trigeminus, the auditory and the motor pathways, caused the symptoms.

Yamuda, M. COAGULATION OF THE BLOOD AND THE RELATION BETWEEN THYROID AND BONE MARROW AND BETWEEN SPLEEN AND BONE MARROW. [*Biochem. Zeitsch.*, 1918, 87, 273-330.]

Finding that thrombin increases in bone marrow and in blood serum upon removing the thyroid, while after removing the spleen thrombin decreases in the serum but remains stationary in the bone marrow, the

author regards the spleen and thyroid as antagonistic in remote effects upon metabolism.

Asher, L., and Dubois, M. THE COÖPERATION BETWEEN SPLEEN, THYROID, AND BONE MARROW. [Biochemische Zeitschrift, Vol. LXXXII, Nos. 3 and 4, 1918.]

These authors have found that removal of the spleen in rabbits to whom large quantities of iron were administered, produced a transitory increase of the hemoglobin and the number of erythrocytes. It must be admitted that, besides the disappearance of the hemolytic factor, there is a direct excitation of the bone marrow, because it constantly pours young types of red blood corpuscles into the circulating blood. Removal of the spleen does not change the number of white cells, but it just results in a decrease in the number of lymphocytes and an equivalent increase of the elements of the bone marrow. This phenomenon is considered by the writers as a lesion of the lymphatic apparatus. A differentiation of the leucocytes lead them to look upon this lesion as an excitation of the leucopoietic system. A lymphocytosis progressively takes place which the writers consider to be a phenomenon of the hypercompensation. Since in the normal animal the excitation produced by the absence of oxygen is made evident by a very temporary decrease in the number of erythrocytes and hemoglobin, in animals having undergone splenectomy this decrease is very marked. The duration of convalescence from anemia is of much shorter duration in splenectomized animals than in normal animals. It brings about a hyperproduction of red blood corpuscles which does not occur under normal circumstances.

Removal of the thyroid glands results in a small decrease in the number of erythrocytes while the percentage in hemoglobin is not changed. This would seem to indicate that a paralysis of the erythroblastic system occurs, although it may be latent. Thyroidectomy at once results in a relative lymphocytosis. The excitation from absence of oxygen does not cause any change in the blood formula in thyroidectomized animals even when the dose of substance avid for oxygen is doubled in quantity which, in normal animals, would result in a change of the blood formula. This fact may be explained by a lack of excitability of the hematogenous systems. The absence of the thyroid gland imposes a much longer convalescence in anemic animals than in those possessing the gland. If both the spleen and thyroid are removed from a rabbit, the only results are a slight decrease in the percentage of hemoglobin and a relatively greater decrease in the number of erythrocytes. This phenomenon does not occur when thyroidectomy is done on an animal who has previously been splenectomized. In an animal thus rendered slightly anemic an excitation of the bone marrow subsists, because in these circumstances it still produces young types of red blood corpuscles. It is probable that this excitation is due to a paralysis of the thyroid system re-