6. BRAIN.

Constantin. SPONTANEOUS ESCAPE OF CEREBROSPINAL FLUID THROUGH THE NOSE. [Rev. méd. de l'Est., July 15, 1920.]

This condition has been described by St. Clair Thomson in England; Freudenthal and Jelliffe (Chordoma) in the United States; Babinski, Sicard, Claisse, and Lévy in France; Wollenberg, Nothnagel and Adolph Meyer in Germany, and Noccioli in Italy, as well as others. In only a few cases have autopsies been performed. In four a cerebral tumor was found; in other cases the escape of cerebrospinal fluid was due to a fracture of the base of the skull or injury to the cribriform plate. In Constantin's case the phenomenon occurred suddenly, without any trauma or sign of a cerebral tumor. The rhinorrhea was observed to occur drop by drop from the right nostril exclusively at the rate of five drops a minute, or 860 c.cm. in the twenty-four hours. When the patient was in the horizontal position the discharge ceased, and the fluid was swallowed without interfering with the patient's sleep. Examination of the nasal fossae and skiagrams of the skull showed nothing to explain the condition.

Parnell, R. J. G., and Dudley, S. F. SEVERE CEREBRAL TOXEMIA AFTER INTRAVENOUS NOVARSENOBILLON. [Lancet, January 24, 1920.]

A case of secondary syphilis which was being treated with this arsenic compound is here reported. The first dose was 0.45 gm. producing no reaction and the second, 0.9 gm. given four days later produced no reaction until fifty-six hours after injection into the vein. The patient began to vomit and during the next three days he had a series of seven epileptiform convulsions with unconsciousness, biting of the tongue, incontinence of urine and feces, together with a macular eruption on the skin, marked cyanosis and failing pulse. Adrenalin injections, calomel in hourly doses, and lumbar puncture failed to relieve the symptoms, so oxygen inhalations were given to combat the evident anoxemia and caffeine 0.2 gm. with urotropin 1.5 gm. in 15 c.c. of sterile distilled water was given to relieve the maniacal state, probably through the great diuresis resulting. Five hours after the injection was begun and the oxygen inhalations were started the patient had become entirely rational and thereafter made an uneventful recovery, though he suffered from a partial amnesia for fourteen days.

Lantuéjoul. SPONTANEOUS COAGULATION OF SPINAL FLUID. [Rev. Neur., April, 1920.]

Lantuéjoul reviews the literature on spontaneous and massive coagulation of the lumbar spinal fluid. Of the 38 cases he has compiled, there was meningitis in 5 and paraplegia in 28. Spinal fluid drawn by puncture at different levels was normal at the higher levels. Of the total 38 persons, 14 have died, and only 5 can be considered cured. Massive