Ein Fall von angeborenem Hirnbruch (A Case of Congenital Hernia Cerebri). Behm (Münchener med. Wochenschrift, 1900, No. 31, S. 1069).

An infant, one week old, presented in the region between the lesser fontanelle and the occipital protuberance a pediculated swelling about as big as a hen's egg, which was soft, did not pulsate, and was neither increased in size when the child cried, nor diminished on pressure. Reduction was attempted by the application of compression, but, as after four days' trial, the tumor seemed larger rather than smaller and threatened to burst through the skin, the thick pedicle was perforated and tied off in three portions. The child bore the operation well. In four weeks the wound was entirely healed, and six months later the patient had developed both mentally and physically in a normal manner. There was still a fluctuating swelling of about the size of a cherry upon the site of the former hernia. The tumor removed was cystic and contained a yellowish fluid. Its solid portion showed nerve cells and fibers, but in the pedicle no nervous elements were present. The cyst cavity was lined with ciliated epithelium. Hence the tumor was regarded as being a portion of a ventricle surrounded by brain substance, an encephalocystocele.

THERAPY.


The author described a condition of vaso-motor ataxia in which thymus medication is of very great benefit. Patients with this affection usually have deficient perspiration, which makes them extremely uncomfortable in summer, while in the winter they are liable to have cold extremities and a condition of overperspiration of the trunk. Sometimes a mixture of thyroid and thymus treatment improves the condition very much. At other times the use of a combination of thymus and suprarenal is more effective. In about one-half the cases of goiter the administration of thymus-gland substance will bring about some diminution in the size of the goiter. Where adenomata of the thyroid exist or where cysts have formed and fibrous degeneration asserted itself, thymus medication will do no good. It is much better than thyroid in the treatment of goiter. Investigations made so far seem to indicate that there is no iodine in the thymus. This is very interesting when we consider its therapeutic relation to goiter, since it has been assumed that it is the iodine elements in the thyroid substance which especially produce an effect upon goiter. Clinical observations seem to point to the fact that the use of thymus substance raises blood pressure. Physiological experts announce as the result of laboratory experience that blood pressure is lowered by it. It certainly has a marked influence on nutrition.

Therapy of Pituitary Body Extract. W. M. Leszinsky (New York County Medical Society. May, 1900).

The author said that Marie first suggested the probable etiological significance of the pituitary body in acromegaly, hence the extract of this body has been used as a remedy. This is the only condition in which extract of pituitary body would seem to be indicated. The results so far obtained are very contradictory and certainly possess as yet very little, if any, scientific value. It is supposed that the secretion from the prehypophysis is carried through the nervous system and acts trophically. This, however, is mere theory, and is not