

HEAD AND NECK.

I. Traumatic Aneurism of the Carotis Interna Cerebralis
with Exophthalmus Pulsans.

BECKER (Koblenz) reported an instance of this very rare phenomenon in gunshot wounds of the skull in the case of a soldier. While he was discharging a gun, the barrel burst and some of the pieces of steel penetrated the brain. In the few cases (10), which up to the present time have been recognized, the seat of injury was diagnosed alone by the external symptoms of the pulsating exophthalmus. The diagnosis in our case, however, was made with absolute certainty by means of Röntgen photographs. The case will possibly possess, on this account, a certain interest. The patient was brought, in an unconscious condition, into the hospital, with four large wounds on the right side of the face, one passing through the nose and a second causing complete destruction of the right eye, which had to be enucleated. The left eye, the pupil of which was widely dilated from the beginning, developed at the end of ten days a protrusion and chemosis. The power of sight was so reduced that fingers could be counted only at a distance of 1 m. Marked restlessness with powerful gesticulations alternated with stupor during the first fourteen days after the injury. The protrusion of the left eye increased steadily and the mobility of the same decreased until at the end of three weeks the eye was immobile. The chemosis increased, the pulsation was both palpable and visible, and the veins of the upper lid became dilated and tortuous. Above the eye, over the left parietal region and over the entire head was audible a systolic bruit, which the patient was also conscious of, as a dull humming sound. By means of pressure one could force the eye ball back into the socket, but it would immediately protrude again if the pressure were released. Pressure on the left carotid caused the murmur and the pulsations to cease. Röntgen photographs of the head taken from the side, and also from before backward revealed the presence in the brain of three sharply defined shadows caused by portions of steel. By a combination of both negatives it was shown that one piece of steel about the size of a pea lay in the white matter of the right frontal lobe in the neighborhood