AN INTERESTING CASE OF PARAPLEGIA WITH RECKLINGHAUSEN'S DISEASE.
Maryland Medical Journal, February, 1903.

Patient, female, fifty-one years. No similar condition in family. Always noted certain tumors on her body. Pigment spots also have been observed on skin. Present illness five years' duration. Commenced with stinging pain in ankle, recurring, and gradually extending up leg, involving lower back, then down into other leg. Two years ago similar pains in arms. Commenced to drag one foot. Confined to bed past year, unable to move herself. For some weeks, marked weakness of arms. Jerking of the muscles constant from the first. At times singing in the ears. Dysphasia for past six months, voice now thick and nasal. Catheterization necessary daily. At first no bladder symptoms. Examination reveals great number of tumors, small, from papule to size of cherry, covering body and extremities. Many pigmented areas; also bluish spots. Associated with growths are certain subjective sensory symptoms. The cranial nerves negative; tongue, however, exhibits fibrillary tremors. A condition of muscular atrophy seen in upper extremities. Paralysis of legs, up to and including hip. Patient can move toes of right foot and abduct great toe of left foot. Ankles flaccid. Great atrophy of legs. Deep reflexes of arms retained, those of legs lost. Electrical reactions good except in hand. In the legs only slight response in muscles which are still active. Sensation unimpaired except over tumors. The lesion in this case apparently is extending upward. There is a failure in mental strength. J. E. CLARK (New York).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TUBERCULOUS DISEASES OF THE PONS. Schoeler
(Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde, XL, No. 2, p. 313, 1902).

The author quotes the histories of three patients, two being adults and one a child, in whom, upon post-mortem examination, tubercles were found on the pons, about the size of pigeons' eggs. In all three cases marked conjugate deviation of the eyes and optic neuritis were found. In one of the patients, who suffered from violent headache, a lumbar puncture was performed; he continued to get worse and died a few days later. According to the author a lumbar puncture should not be performed, if it is assumed that the tumor is deep seated, so as not to cause an increased pressure upon the brain below. After considering the literature on the subject of diseases of the pons, the author states that the characteristic sign of such disease is conjugate deviation of the eyes. Rarely there is limitation of the upward and downward ocular movements. The second characteristic sign is the "Gubler-Millard hemiplegia," the alternating paralysis of the facial nerve and the paralysis of muscles of the extremities or trunk on the opposite side. Ptosis has frequently been found, as well as paralysis of the auditory nerve. DINKELSPIEL (Philadelphia).

THE SURGICAL IMPORTANCE OF INFLUENZA. I. Perez (Deut. Zeitsch. f. Chir., November, 1902).

In a very long article of this title the author draws his conclusions from a review of no less than 520 papers, as well as from his own voluminous experiments on the subject. The more important are as follows: Influenza is a remarkable protean disorder which possesses the highest toxic character, and whose specific cause is the bacillus of Pfeiffer. This bacillus lodges, and causes the characteristic pathologic changes so well known, but often so variable, in almost all the organs, but more particularly in those which, because of the nature of the protoplasm, are most liable to inflammatory processes. The influenza toxins take hold particularly on the central and peripheral nervous system, where they cause either a simple catarrhal process or even purulent, never, however, producing a fibrinous change. The polymorphism of this sickness depends on the location of the infection as well as upon the extent of involvement. Pfeiffer's bacillus