SEVEN CASES OF ACUTE POISONING CAUSED BY EATING THE LIVER (AND HEART?) OF A SWORD-FISH.

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ON the 31st of July, 1896, the crew of the Schooner ———, while fishing on La Have fishing banks, off the coast of Nova Scotia, caught on their trawls a sword-fish; some one remarked that the liver and heart were "good eating"; and accordingly they were sliced and fried, and eaten with a gravy composed of onions and a few other ingredients. It proved to be a very palatable dish, and was partaken of in various amounts by seven of the crew, the other eight preferring to abstain from it.

Soon after they had finished eating, nausea was experienced, and in three or four hours all seven vomited; they now took Epsom salts, and because of that or the food, or both, free purging supervened; following this there set in an intense headache, which lasted several hours, during which time only they were confined to their beds.

On the next day there appeared upon the body a dry papular eruption, which appeared most numerous upon the trunk, there being few papules on the lower extremities and those mostly about the patellæ.

On the third day desquamation began; the thick epidermis on the palmar surface of the hand came off in large pieces leaving the hands pink, soft and tender; over the scalp exfoliation was complete, but the hair was not injured; desquamation extended over the body, but was scarcely noticeable in some areas.

The severity of the symptoms seemed to be in proportion to the amount of the food eaten, those who had partaken most freely being most affected.

While the flesh of the sword-fish is eaten without injurious results, I have been unable to find any other instance where the liver has been eaten, by means of which it could be determined whether the peculiar effects upon the skin are constant, or due, in these cases, to a diseased condition of this particular liver, or to the large amount which some of them, at least, had eaten.

Reports of Societies.

AMERICAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING, MONTREAL, CAN., MAY 25, 26, 27, 1896.

OWING to the unavoidable absence of the president, DR. JOSEPH O'DWYER, the Chair was occupied by DR. JAMES C. WILSON, of Philadelphia.

The first session was opened by the reading of the President's address, entitled

THE EVOLUTION OF INTUBATION.

This was prepared at the request of the Council, and was a paper of the greatest interest, as it described the labors which Dr. O'Dwyer pursued with untiring devotion to a great idea through five long years. A bivalve tube was first used, but after three years of continuous effort it was abandoned, and experiments were begun with the solid tube. The paper described the various experiments made with alternating failure and success, until at last obstacle after obstacle was overcome and imperfection after imperfection was re-

moved. As a result of this patient toil, perfected instruments were given to the profession—a very rare thing in the history of medicine. The various steps taken in accomplishing this great result were narrated with the simplicity and modesty which has always characterized the work of Dr. O'Dwyer. A complete set of instruments, showing the evolution of intubation from the first bivalve tube to the present perfected model, proved of the utmost interest.

DR. GEORGE N. ACKER, of Washington, read the first paper, entitled

GANGRENE OF THE LUNG FOLLOWING TYPHOID FEVER.

DR. J. H. FRUITNIGHT, New York, read a paper on
MALIGNANT ENDOCARDITIS,

and presented a specimen. As the bacteriological examination showed the condition to be due to the presence of streptococci, the author advocated the use of streptococcus antitoxin serum in such cases.

At the second session, DR. A. H. WENTWORTH, of Boston, read a most exhaustive paper on

LUMBAR PUNCTURE,¹

and reported 29 cases. He affirmed that while normal cerebro-spinal fluid contains neither fibrin nor cells and is always clear, it is always cloudy in case of meningitis, though the cloudiness is sometimes very slight. This is caused by cells, the character of the cells differing with the variety of meningitis. The operation, the author believes, offers a valuable means of differential diagnosis. For such purpose, however, the microscope is essential, and inoculation experiments are also of value.

This was followed by a paper on

TAPPING THE VERTEBRAL CANAL,

with remarks on local treatment for tubercular meningitis, by DR. AUGUSTUS CAILLÉ, of New York.

He reported 21 cases, and believed that a study of the cases reported up to the present time will certainly convince the most sceptical that Quincke's puncture is of positive value as a method of diagnosis. It is simple and usually of easy performance. In two cases Dr. Caillé injected antiseptics into the subarachnoid space, but without material results. He proposes in some future case to lay bare the dura by removing a button of bone and irrigating from a lumbar puncture upward through an opening in the dura.

DR. C. C. JENNINGS, of Detroit, also read a valuable paper on

LUMBAR PUNCTURE,

and reported practical experience.

DR. FLOYD M. CRANDALL, of New York, read a paper on

THE OCCURRENCE OF INFLUENZA IN CHILDREN, and reported local epidemics.

DR. SAMUEL S. ADAMS, of Washington, reported an extremely interesting case of

TEMPORARY INSANITY FOLLOWING TYPHOID FEVER.

DR. FREDERICK A. PACKARD, of Philadelphia, reported a case of

ENDOTHELIOMA OF THE BRAIN WITH ATROPHY OF THE PARALYZED MEMBERS.

¹ See page 132 of the Journal.