Canelli, A. F. ANATOMY AND PATHOLOGY OF THYMUS IN YOUNG CHILDREN. [Pediatria, August 15, 1920. J. A. M. A.]

Canelli found the thymus in two lobes in 78.25 per cent. of the 115 cadavers examined. In 74.77 per cent. the thymus was in the thorax, and he advises never to disturb the sternum until the location of the thymus has been ascertained. The water content seemed to be in inverse proportion to the age, while the weight after desiccation increased with the age.

Canelli. THE THYMUS IN EARLY LIFE. [La Pediatria, August 15, 1920. B. M. J.]

From the study of the thymus in 41 infants, the following conclusions are reached by the author: (1) From the topographical point of view three groups of thymuses may be described, which in order of frequency are thoracic, thoraco-cervical, and cervical, the last being an ectopic thymus. (2) As regards lobulation, four groups of thymuses may be described—namely, bilobar, unilobar, trilobar, and multilobar; the great majority of enlarged thymuses are bilobar. (3) The color of the thymus is related to the state of general nutrition, to local and general disease, and to the post mortem condition. In premature infants the thymus is often congested and hemorrhagic, but it has yet to be shown whether this is due to prematurity or to coexistent asphyxia. (4) The relative weight of the thymus varies within fairly wide limits.

Dustin, A. THE THYMUS AS AN ENDOCRINE ORGAN. [Presse Médicale, June 5, 1920.]

The hitherto accredited theory that the small thymic cells are true lymphocytes and the Hassall bodies epithelial derivatives with an endocrine function can no longer be considered valid. The only really functioning cell is the small thymic cell, which resembles a lymphocyte but is actually derived by a strictly special process from the primordial epithelium of the thymus. The main function of the organ is division of these small cells by karyokinesis and disappearance of the cells by pyknosis, nuclein derivatives being set free in the system. This liberation of nuclein material by the thymus is strongly influenced, if not initiated, by the thyroid gland. The thymus thus acts as a regulator and disseminator of nucleins and their derivatives in the organism. Important applications of these facts may be made in morbid conditions of the thymus, lymphoid formations, tumors, and in the biochemical disturbances of nucleinic metabolism. The organ does not operate, as would a gland, through a secretion, but by fixation of substances of the nucleoproteid group in the condition of actual formed elements or cells.