

Clinical Notes : MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

A CASE OF SHAVING-BRUSH INFECTION WITH ANTHRAX.

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MEDICAL officers who were at the front will remember a circular which came round, I think in 1917, with reference to the possibility of infection with anthrax by means of shaving brushes supposed to have come from Japan. How many cases were reported at the time I do not know, but it was rather curious to run across one of these cases in the month of May, 1920. The history is as follows :—

E. C., aged 40, bought a new shaving brush at Coventry on April 10th, 1920. He used the brush from the date of purchase. He was admitted to Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption on the 12th. On the 29th he cut his face and immediately relathered with the brush. On May 1st he complained of a small painful sore on his chin. Dr. Jones, the house surgeon, asked Dr. W. G. Kinton, the superintendent, to have a look at it on account of its curious appearance. Dr. Kinton at once suspected anthrax, and to him is due the credit of immediate diagnosis. The exudate was examined and found to contain large rod-shaped bacilli.

I was then telephoned to come out and operate at once. I found the man with a small sore on the left side of the chin; the centre was black, and it was surrounded by a purply red area, in which two small vesicles were beginning to form. The glands in the submaxillary space were enlarged. The temperature and pulse were not altered, and the man did not appear to be ill. He was given an anæsthetic, and the sore was completely removed with a margin of about half an inch of good tissue. The wound was sewn up and healed by first intention. The man made an excellent recovery, the glands subsiding in a few days. The tissue was sent to the pathologist, who reported that it contained anthrax bacilli.

The medical officer of health of Coventry was communicated with and the name of the shop given at which the brush was bought. The brushes in that batch were examined, and anthrax bacilli were found in several of them; these were destroyed.

A CASE OF ORBITAL CELLULITIS.

BY R. S. McCLELLAND, M.D. EDIN.

THAT orbital cellulitis is a grave condition cannot be denied, and this is amply confirmed by the very interesting article by Dr. A. L. McMillan, of Glasgow, published in THE LANCET of Oct. 9th. Of the 8 cases he saw in five years 2 died, 1 had the affected eye enucleated, and 3 had total or partial loss of sight; another recovered with ptosis, and 1 is still in hospital. It must therefore be admitted that even when the patient recovers permanent damage of some kind is likely to follow. The rarity of this cellulitis also makes the occurrence of a case worthy of record.

I. E. M., a girl of 3 years, was seen on Nov. 30th, 1919. The right eye was prominent and the child was extremely ill. There was a high temperature, a rapid pulse, great pain around eye, and constipation of a most obstinate nature. The eye "began to swell." To speak accurately, the eyeball was pushed forwards, upwards, and outwards until it looked as if it would be dislocated on to the cheek. The eyelids were forced apart, and could not be approximated. The eye was protected by ointment on lint, and hot fomentations applied day and night. On Dec. 6th I made a wide incision into upper part of swelling, and exposed post-orbital fat which herniated through wound. Three days later I opened below and inwards, and at once a large amount of pus poured out. Later it was noted that pus came from between the lids. The child became very debilitated and pediculi troublesome. For about three months she lived in bandages and an odour of paraffin.

At the present time there is an upward and outward strabismus of the right eye due to limitation of movement. The fundus is normal, but the visual acuity is only 6/36, and a state of monocular vision exists. She is now wearing glasses—a + sphere over the good eye in order to fog the vision of that eye, with a plane glass for the right. The acuity is improving, and there is less squinting than there was ten months ago.

A CASE OF EPITHELIOMA OF THE PENIS FOLLOWING INCOMPLETE CIRCUMCISION.

BY C. HAMILTON WHITEFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

I BELIEVE the following case to be a somewhat rare one :—

The patient, aged 56 years, came to the writer with a large ulcerated growth on the dorsum of the glans, which was infiltrated and hard. The inguinal glands on both sides were discrete, very hard, and not tender. A portion of the growth was examined microscopically, the pathologist's report being "undoubted epithelioma." At the age of 20 he had been circumcised for phimosis; the operator, finding a portion of the prepuce to be incorporated with the dorsum of the glans, left this piece of prepuce in situ. The patient then married and begat five children.

Operation.—The operation was performed in two stages. In the first stage the penis was amputated in front of the scrotum. In the second stage, 18 days later, the lymphatics of the suprapubic region and the inguinal and femoral areas on both sides were removed.

Three years have passed without recurrence.

The association of epithelioma with phimosis is well known. The moral of this case appears to be that in those rather exceptional cases in which a portion of prepuce is incorporated with the glans, it is advisable to complete the removal of the prepuce, even when this entails the sacrifice of part of the surface of the glans.

Plymouth.

Medical Societies.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

CLINICAL SECTION.

EXHIBITION OF CASES.

A MEETING of this section of the Royal Society of Medicine was held on Dec. 10th, Sir ANTHONY BOWLBY, the President, being in the chair.

Mr. F. J. STEWARD showed two cases of

Epithelioma of the Mouth treated by Diathermy.

The first was that of a man, aged 64, who had had an operation for epithelioma of the floor of the mouth two years ago, the glands of the neck on both sides being removed later. Six months ago there was a recurrence of the growth in the mouth. He was admitted to hospital with a large ulcerating mass involving the floor of the mouth and under part of the tongue. His general condition was very poor and he was not considered to be fit for an extensive cutting operation. He was treated by diathermy early in October last. There was remarkably little subsequent disturbance, and the pain, which was very severe before the operation, practically disappeared at once. There was no hæmorrhage during healing.

The second case was one of epithelioma of the soft palate and fauces on the right side and on the cheek on the left side. The patient, a man aged 59, had had a portion of the growth removed which had proved, on section, to be epithelioma. There was a warty superficial growth involving the right half of the soft palate and extending to the pillars of the fauces. A second growth of similar type and of the size of a sixpenny-piece was situated on the inner side of the left cheek. The glands on the right side of the neck were palpable. The great extent of the growths, the marked involvement of the glands, and the poor general condition of the patient precluded a cutting operation. He was treated by diathermy at the end of last May. For a few days subsequently there was some œdema of the cheeks and neck, but this soon subsided. General disturbance and pain were slight. The man's condition was so much improved three months later that he was considered fit enough for an attempt to be made to deal with the enlarged glands. When last seen, in October, the sites of the growths within the mouth were occupied by firm white scar tissue. There was, however, some doubtful thickening about the upper part of the scar in the neck.

Mr. C. MAX PAGE recorded a series of cases of fracture of the carpal bones and showed, amongst others, a case of

Old Fracture of the Scaphoid (Ununited): Osteo-arthritis.

The patient was a man aged 42. In September, 1915, he was shot in the knee and fell on to his left wrist. He was taken prisoner and while in hospital in Germany received no treatment for the wrist injury. In 1916 he was sent to Russia and did general labourer's work there. During this time he was able to use his wrist,