

A SPECIAL SYNDROME OF ENDOCRANIAL OTITIC COMPLICATIONS (PARALYSIS OF THE MOTOR OCULI EXTERNUS OF OTITIC ORIGIN).*

BY PROFESSOR G. GRADENIGO.

In three successive communications¹ to the Royal Academy of Medicine at Turin, I took occasion to draw attention to a special morbid syndrome, characterized by the association of acute otitis media accompanied or not by external suppuration, with very intense pains, localized in the temporal and parietal region, and with a paralysis or paresis of the external motor oculi nerve of the same side as the aural lesion. I have seen six cases of this disease, and as a result of my communications, my colleagues Mongardi (of Bologna) Ricci (of Treviso) and Citelli (of Catane), have kindly sent me the histories of three other cases. In reviewing the otologic literature, I have been able to collect twelve other cases of which four were reported at the last session (May, 1904), of the French Society of Otology and Laryngology (Lannois and Ferrand, Lubet-Barbon and Cheval.). The authors have given different interpretations to this particular association of symptoms.

The study of my cases, compared to that which has been published, permits me to draw the conclusion that, this syndrome of clinic symptoms is the result of a circumscribed purulent simple serous leptomeningitis, localized about the tip of the pyramid, and caused by the diffusion of the infection in the tympanum. The constancy of the clinical picture makes me believe that the propagation was along the pre-existing anatomic paths. Usually, the leptomeningitic focus tends to get well of itself, or following treatment of the drum (paracentesis) or of the mastoid, done to eliminate the aural infection; in certain cases the spread of the meningitis caused the death of the patient. From these facts the diagnostic importance of this syndrome is apparent, as is the necessity for considering its termination, in spite of its apparently benign character.

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(1) Jan. 29, Apr. 21, June 17, 1904.