

processes about the head of the colon, in the iliac fossa, *cæcitis* and *pericæcitis* unless we are *absolutely* positive that some other disease is present. If 80 per cent. of the so-called cases of "perityphlitis" or "appendicitis" recover spontaneously, few leaving any pathological conditions after them as sequelæ, we may feel perfectly satisfied that a very large majority of them were simply cases of *cæcitis* or *pericæcitis*.

DIAGNOSIS OF TUBERCULAR MENINGITIS BY TUBERCULIN.

BY CHARLES DENISON, M.D.
DENVER, COL.

Of eight cases of confirmative diagnosis of tuberculosis, which I have thus far made with tuberculin (Koch's), where there was either no bacilli found in sputum or no sputum to examine, the following I wish to report as possibly the first diagnosis of chronic tubercular bassilar meningitis made by that means.

April 16, last, I was called to North Denver to see Dr. O. B. Gould of Newport, Vt., a physician who had evidently been a very hard worker, age 38. Family history peculiar and showing marked tubercular tendency; mother died of consumption and father supposed to have died of meningitis. Five sisters out of seven children died of consumption; one of these sisters had great pain in back of head, just like this patient, six years before her death, which pain had eventuated in a tubercular cough. Her son had severe headaches and died at the age of seventeen of consumption. Patient's wife had hip disease in youth and, following a possible tubercular disease of bowels and vagina, died of tubercular meningitis three years ago. The patient himself shows the scars of seton having been put in the back of his neck twelve years previous, when he broke down from excessive professional work and had meningitis.

Eight years ago he sustained fracture of ribs with some septicæmia resulting. Three years ago he had "la grippe" and double pneumonia, chiefly on right side; sick six months; came to Colorado at that time and gained a pound a day for seventeen days, and then returned to Vermont. Nov. 20, 1892, after a cough, had what was thought to be bassilar meningitis and has been sick since, most of the time in bed, and all the time for the past three weeks. Had slight blood spitting in November and night sweats in December and January. Weight was 192 in June, 1892, 170 on arrival in Colorado five weeks previously and 160 pounds then, April 16. He felt the elevation and his headache was worse after two weeks and remained so. He could hardly sit up long enough for me to finish my physical examination of his chest, which showed only slightly lessened movement, slight dullness, fremitus and feebler action on the right than on the left side; the ratio of movement being one and one-half for the left, and one inch for the right side. Though there had been before he left Vermont there was now no sputum to examine. Strongly suspicious that his bassilar trouble was tubercular, I proposed to make the diagnosis with tuberculin, and explained my intended mode of procedure. This he consented to, and next day was removed in a carriage to a large private

room in St. Luke's Hospital. The jarring of this two-mile ride made him so dizzy and helpless that it took two attendants to put him to bed. After two days his temperature was found to average 98½ F.; pulse 60, and respiration 20 without variation in any of these. Then at 12 M. I administered exactly one milligram tuberculin. The genuine diagnostic reaction did not commence till ten o'clock next forenoon and had not entirely subsided till early the following morning.

Its maximum, of pulse 82, and temperature 100.5°, was reached at 2 P. M., with a feeling of constriction around the base of brain and forehead, and at 6 P. M. he vomited. His headache went away with the subsidence of the reaction by daylight next morning. This was the first time he had been free from headache for six months. That day I gave him 1½ milligrams tuberculin, and reaction to 99.5° temperature, and pulse 80 was manifest in four hours, and in the night (2 A. M.,) temperature 100.5°, and pulse 90. The second day afterward when I called I found the doctor sitting up, dressed; had had a barber come to shave him and seemed in a very jovial mood. After congratulations on what he termed his "getting well," I said I was going to give him another dose of 1½ or 2 milligrams. He protested that he was well enough to go back to his rooms and promised to ride by my office and get "his jab in the back" on his way home next morning. Well, bright and early I found him at my office, whither he had walked two blocks and come in the electric car the rest of the way. In another week he was riding all around town, out all day and having no headache except a little one day when he allowed his stomach to get out of order.

In three weeks, (after reaching the 13 milligram dose), he felt compelled to go home to Vermont, to attend to some urgent unprofessional business. So, saying he felt as well as he ever did, he departed taking one of my milligram syringes and some lymph with him; the intention being to continue the injections every three or four days till 40 or 50 milligrams or more at a dose shall be taken. I shall hope to hear that he does well. Now I am wondering if some persistent headaches, not otherwise relieved, may not yet be cured by tuberculin.

Denver, Colorado, May 22, 1893.

SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS.

Illinois State Medical Society.

Abstract of the Proceedings of the Forty-Third Annual Meeting, held in Chicago, May 16, 17 and 18, 1893.

(Concluded from page 587.)

SECTION THREE.—TUESDAY, MAY 16.

Dr. N. S. Davis, Sr., read a paper

ON THE INFLUENCE OF THE SHIP CANAL NOW BEING CONSTRUCTED
BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE CHICAGO DRAINAGE DISTRICT
ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF CHICAGO AND
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

in which he held that the sanitary condition of the city depends upon the thoroughness of the soil drainage, proper disposal of sewage, abundance and purity of the water supply. Comparing two series of wards using the same lake water for drinking and domestic purposes, he found that the cause of infectious diseases was not due to the water, but to the difference in the condition of cleanliness of the premises, alleys, etc.; that in 1892, in localities where