

The case was therefore one of infantile palsy complicated by meningitis, the latter condition being manifested by the contracture of the lower limbs, by the tenderness over the cervical vertebrae, and by the increased pressure of the cerebro-spinal fluid. This meningitis was not diffuse, since such principal symptoms as cephalagia, contracture of the nuchal muscles, and general hyperalgia were wanting. It was evidently localized to the cervical segment of the cord.

The author asks whether the meningococcus found in the spinal fluid was not at the same time the excitant of the poliomyelitis. He believes this a reasonable theory, since it goes far to explain the analogies which exist between epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis and poliomyelitis, such as the rapid evolution of their clinical symptoms, their frequency in childhood, and the epidemic character of these two affections.

The Anæmias of Infancy.—MARFAN (*Archives de Médecine des Enfants*, 1898, No. 12, p. 712) states that from a clinical point of view the anæmias of young children do not in general produce, as in the adult, cardiac or vascular bruits; inorganic murmurs are absolutely exceptional before the age of three years. In one case, however, which he reports, such murmurs were heard with great intensity in a child of twenty-six months. The anæmia of nurslings is distinguished by two features:

1. It is accompanied very frequently by hypertrophy of the hæmatopoietic organs—spleen, liver, and lymphatic ganglia. These alterations depend probably upon the infectious state which causes the anæmia rather than upon the anæmia itself.

2. It is accompanied most often by a modification of the blood, which is rare in the adult—that is, the habitual appearance in the blood of nucleated red cells, which are encountered in the adult only in the course of grave anæmias with fatal termination. The younger the child the more frequent is the appearance of these nucleated forms.

Etiologically the author emphasizes the statement that the anæmias of nurslings are never primary. Together with the hypertrophy of the blood-making organs, they are one of the symptoms of the cachectic state which is ordinarily produced by subacute or chronic infections. These may be observed in the course of or following gastro-enteritis, and especially with rhachitis, subacute broncho-pneumonia, prolonged pyodermites, adenoid vegetations upon suppurating surfaces, tuberculosis, and syphilis.

As to anæmia infantum pseudo-leukæmica, which is generally considered an autonomous, independent, primary disease, the author, basing his opinion upon two cases very exhaustively studied, believes that he is justified in concluding this condition can succeed a chronic gastro-enteritis complicated by rhachitis.

[This opinion seems to be largely in accord with that expressed by Morse in a recent paper, an abstract of which was published in this department in the preceding number of the JOURNAL, April, 1899, p. 464.—ED.]