

Clinical Notes:

MEDICAL, SURGICAL, OBSTETRICAL, AND THERAPEUTICAL.

A MODIFICATION OF THE ARONSON AND PHILLIPS STAINING METHOD AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE CASE OF MALARIAL BLOOD.

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A SHORT description of the Aronson and Phillips staining method¹ which gives such excellent pictures of the blood may be acceptable before proceeding to any modifications. The procedure is as follows. Make concentrated aqueous solutions of orange G., acid rubin, and crystallised methyl green, leave them to settle, then mix in these proportions: orange G. 55, acid rubin 50, distilled water 100, and alcohol 50. To this add methyl green 65, distilled water 50, and alcohol 12. Leave the mixture standing for a week. A well-diluted solution should be used for staining purposes; one drop of the mixture should be added to 25 cubic centimetres of water; the stain should be left on for 24 hours and the fixing of the preparations carried out at a temperature of 120° C. In the result the red corpuscles are stained orange, nuclei greenish blue, neutrophile corpuscles violet, and eosinophile red.

My modification of the above method is simply a matter of the length of time and position on the copper slip during fixation and of the length of time on the staining fluid which I use full strength (undiluted). The metal plate which I employ is a strip of Muntz metal 3 inches by 12 inches by $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, and I find the boiling-point practically constant after five minutes' heating. The method which I have worked out after repeated experiments and now generally adopt for malarial blood when permanent preparations are desired is as follows. Instead of fixing for five minutes on the slip in variable positions according to one's estimate of whereabouts a temperature of 120° C. is to be found and afterwards floating on the dilute stain for 24 hours I adopt this procedure. Having prepared the covers by the smear method as recommended by Dr. Manson (or better still by placing one cover in a Carnet forceps and laying the other bearing the droplet of blood blood-side downwards on it, then carefully and slowly drawing them apart) ascertain next at what point on the slip water constantly boils. Place the air-dried covers two inches nearer the flame than this point, blood-side up, leave them for two minutes to fix and float them on the strong solution for two minutes. The stained cover must be very thoroughly washed out in running water as the rubin in the staining fluid is very tenacious, and the washing should be continued until some part of the cover shows an orange tint when it may be dried and mounted in xylol balsam. Although parasites (crescent or others) do not stain (if they do take up any it is a very faint blue) I contend that the orange-coloured corpuscles form such a very distinct background or surrounding for them that the result is about the best that can be got, quite apart from the fact that the lymphocytes and leucocytes are brilliantly stained and the whole slide a pretty picture, exceedingly useful for demonstration purposes.

Selangor.

DEATHS FROM LIGHTNING STROKE.

By HAROLD WHICHELLO, L.R.C.P. LOND., M.R.C.S. ENG.

Two brothers, aged respectively 28 and 22 years, were driving together in a dogcart during a thunderstorm. They were apparently struck by lightning and seem to have fallen simultaneously out of the back of the vehicle, for they were found about five minutes after the flash lying side by side on the road with the seat of the dogcart under their legs and the driving apron over them. I arrived from 10 to 15 minutes afterwards and found them both quite dead; the bodies were

lying in the road in the same position as they were found. The elder brother had no external sign of injury. The younger brother presented the following appearances. The epidermis was burnt over the chest and abdomen from the neck to the pubes, not continuously, but in a number of circular holes from one-sixteenth of an inch to a quarter of an inch in diameter. The metallic collar stud was fused and the skin beneath was deeply burnt. An odour of burnt flesh pervaded the whole width of the road. The back from the neck to the buttocks was burnt but less severely than in front. The vest and shirt were charred but the waistcoat and coat were uninjured. The woollen drawers and trousers had a hole burnt in them about two inches in diameter corresponding to a burn on the right buttock. On the occiput there was a contused scalp wound evidently due to the fall from the vehicle. There were no other injuries nor were any of the clothes torn off either of the bodies. Neither urine nor fæces had been voided. There was still no rigor mortis an hour and a half after death. His watch was going and seems not to have been magnetised as it has kept good time since. The cloth of the cushion on which the younger brother sat was burnt on its outer surface but the wooden seat beneath was uninjured. The tailboard of the dogcart has the paint slightly singed immediately behind the younger brother's seat, otherwise the vehicle bears no traces of the lightning. It was very wet from the rain. No one else was in the cart besides the two brothers. The horse was uninjured and trotted home of its own accord. The road also bore no traces of the lightning.

Tattenhall, Chester.

PROTRUSION OF THE INTESTINES IN A NEW-BORN INFANT.

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THE following case presents some points of interest. On April 8th at 9 A.M. a Chinese female child was brought to hospital immediately after birth. On removing the filthy wrappings the cord with placenta attached and about two feet of intestine were found lying on the abdomen. On examination it was seen that the cord about two inches from the umbilicus was thinned out and attached all round an opening into the abdomen about one and a half inches in diameter through which the intestines had escaped. The child was crying a little but did not seem in much pain nor was it collapsed. The intestines were cleaned and after some trouble were returned, a ligature of silk was slipped round the opening and tied, and the cord was then dissected off. At 6 P.M. this ligature unfortunately slipped and the intestines had again to be returned. Three deep and three superficial silk sutures were now inserted. The child throughout took milk well though occasionally there was some vomiting. The stitches were removed on the sixth day and the child was discharged quite well on the twentieth day, the superficial part of the wound taking some time to heal. The highest temperature throughout was 99.6° F. on the third day. The condition must, I think, be a rare one, as no one here had ever seen or heard of a similar case. The absence of peritonitis throughout is also somewhat remarkable.

Hong-Kong.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATES.—Mr. William H. Lang, M.B. Edin., has been appointed, *pro tem.*, Deputy Licensing Magistrate of the Licensing Court for the Licensing District of Corowa, New South Wales, and Mr. L. Robinson, M.D. R.U.I., has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Queensland.

VACCINATION FEES.—At a meeting of the Thornbury Board of Guardians held on May 26th a communication was read from two of the medical officers asking that the vaccination fees might be on a higher scale than those fixed by the Local Government Board. The majority of the guardians were of opinion that they had acted fairly to the medical officers by fixing the fees above the minimum laid down by the Act, and as these officers had appealed to the Local Government Board it was decided that the fees should therefore remain the same as suggested by the Local Government Board.

¹ Translation from Pathologisch-Histologische Untersuchungs-methoden, page 113, Dr. Schmorl (F. C. W. Vogel, Leipsic).