

of dull pain referred to the left shoulder-joint. Upon inspection the left shoulder was seen to be flattened and upon a somewhat lower level than the right. The muscles of the left upper extremity, particularly of the upper arm, were decidedly atrophied; those of the scapular muscles were affected similarly, but in slighter degree. The glenoid cavity of the scapula was palpable and appeared flat and empty; the acromial process was shorter and lower than usual. The upper extremity of the humerus could be felt distinctly below the empty glenoid fossa; it was freely movable and not larger, but perhaps a little smaller, than the adjacent shaft. Nothing corresponding to the head of the humerus was appreciable. The extremity of the bone was, however, distinctly rounded. This loss of the head of the humerus readily permitted the occurrence of luxation beneath the coracoid process and into the axilla. Active movement in the joint was greatly restricted, while passive movement was not interfered with. All movement was free from pain. There were no osteoplastic deposits, neither in the glenoid cavity, nor in the capsule of the joint, nor in the tendons or muscular attachments. The elbow-joint and the wrist-joint appeared to be normal, but the capsules of the joints of the fingers were too large and permitted of undue movement.

THE PRESENCE OF EOSINOPHILE CELLS IN THE BLOOD.

ZAPPERT (*Zeitschrift für klinische Medicin*, Band xxiii., Hefte 3 u. 4, p. 226), as the result of a large number of observations, has found that in otherwise healthy persons the number of eosinophile cells present in the blood fluctuates between 50 and 250 in the cubic millimetre. The upper limit is not infrequently exceeded and an increase to 700 or more is not an exceptional observation. In children a large number of eosinophile cells is the rule. Sex, the existence of gravidity, and the occurrence of menstruation were not found to have any influence upon the number of eosinophile cells. In leucæmia the absolute, but not the relative, number of eosinophile cells is increased; the percentage fluctuates between 2 and 6. Cases of chlorosis and profound anemia are divisible into two groups: one with the normal or an increased number, and one with a diminished number of eosinophile cells. This division, however, has no bearing upon the prognosis. In cases of cardiac disease no increase was found. Afebrile pulmonary tuberculosis is frequently attended with a diminution. In cases of bronchial asthma and pulmonary emphysema an increase takes place. Affections of the liver, excluding neoplasms, are also frequently attended with an increase in the number. In cases of nephritis there is an increase independently of the occurrence of uræmic symptoms. In the so-called functional neuroses the number is frequently increased, while in organic disease of the nervous system and in the psychoses the number, as a rule, remains normal. A large number of diseases of the skin are characterized by increase in the number of eosinophile cells, varying with the character and intensity of the disease—the extent of distribution, however, being of but secondary importance. It may be that the progressive cachexia attendant upon the presence of malignant neoplasms may cause a diminution in the number of eosinophile cells. A considerable diminution takes place immediately before death. In case of

high fever the number is frequently diminished; after defervescence, however, it is not uncommon for an increase to take place. This increase sometimes takes place during the febrile period.

THE NATURE AND MANIFESTATIONS OF FEVER.

HILLER (*Zeitschrift für klin. Medicin*, Bd. xxiii., Heft 5, 6, p. 399), from a study of the nature and the manifestations of the febrile process, arrives at the conclusion that fever consists essentially in an increase of heat-production as a result of some morbid process, and that the symptoms of the coadition arise from the altered relation between heat-production and heat-dissipation; the bodily temperature rising when production exceeds dissipation (*febris ascendens*), remaining at the same level when production and dissipation are equal (*febris constantia*, the normal temperature in health), and falling when dissipation exceeds production (*febris descendens*). The degree of heat-dissipation, which occurs principally through the skin, is determined by the thermic sensibility of the cutaneous nerve-endings beneath the epidermis. Both thermic sensibility and heat-dissipation vary in different parts of the body. The amount of heat-dissipation is greater in parts not covered by hair or clothing and directly exposed to the air, and the thermic sensibility of the cutaneous nerves is by habituation considerably less. The subjective sense of heat or of cold is determined by the thermic sensibility of the covered parts of the body, partly by reason of the large extent of surface and partly by reason of the greater sensibility of the cutaneous nerves of these parts. The cutaneous nerve-endings of the covered parts of the skin are from birth accustomed to a certain degree of rapidity of heat-dissipation as a result of which there is a fairly constant difference between the temperature of the body (98.6°) and that of the clothing (96.8°). This rapidity of heat-dissipation fluctuates within narrow limits, bears an intimate relation to the maintenance of the thermometric equilibrium, and gives rise to the feeling of thermic comfort in the skin. Every variation in the rapidity of this dissipation acts as an irritant (thermic irritation, comparable to electric stimulation). Increased heat-dissipation gives rise to a feeling of chilliness, diminished dissipation to a feeling of heat. The action of either stimulus is antagonistic to that of its cause—in the one instance checking the increase, in the other augmenting it. In consequence of deficient functional exercise of the unstriated muscular fibres this action is a slower one in the covered parts of the skin, and in consequence of the smaller number of bloodvessels present the action is less pronounced. In fever of ascending type the ascent of the cutaneous temperature resulting from the elevation of the internal temperature occurs earlier than the elevation of the temperature of the clothing, as the dry epidermis is a poor conductor of heat, which it gives off almost solely by radiation; the resulting increased rapidity of heat-dissipation gives rise to a chill. The more rapidly the internal temperature, and also the cutaneous temperature, rises, the more severe and more protracted is the rigor. In the same way in fever of descending type, at times, in the crisis, the lowering of the internal temperature, and with it that of the skin, in consequence of the cessation of febrile production of heat, takes place more rapidly than that of the body-covering; the resulting progressive retardation of heat-dissipation

is attended with a feeling of heat and perspiration. After the febrile production of heat has reached its maximum a period is reached in which the difference between the temperature of the skin and that of the body-covering equals that which is present in health. The skin again feels comfortable. Any change in the existing degree of rapidity of heat-dissipation acts as an irritant. Probably the intensity of the irritation and the sensibility of the cutaneous nerves is greater as a result of the elevation of temperature. However this may be, the result is that heat-dissipation and heat-production become equal. The bodily temperature remains at the same level (febris continua). There is thus again established a condition of the thermometric equilibrium, as in health, with the difference, however, that heat-production and heat-dissipation are both greater. This condition of equilibrium is maintained as long as the heat-production (which depends upon the febrile disease-process) and the conditions for heat-dissipation (including the bed and the surrounding temperature) remain unchanged.

SURGERY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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THE SECONDARY UNION OF PORTIONS OF SKIN REMOVED FROM THE BODY WITH THE ADJACENT FAT.

HIRSCHBEAO (*Archiv für klin. Chir.*, 1893, Band xlvi., Heft 1) deals at great length with the historical portion of his subject, to support his theory that hyperæmia and a weakened condition of vasor tonus are the salient features in the success of transplanting unpediculated skin-grafts, containing the entire thickness of the skin, and also the underlying connective and adipose layers of tissue. He says of his method: "The secret, in my opinion, of transplantation lies in the use of portions of skin rich in vascular supply, and especially in an artificially produced hyperæmia." He reports four successful cases in which the operation performed was the following: While the defect to be filled is held under compresses by an assistant, the operator places an Esmarch bandage, and tube on the uplifted arm. The bandage is removed after a few moments, the arm laid upon the operating-table, and the portion of skin to be transplanted is beaten for two or three minutes with a doubled-up small rubber drainage-tube; he then cuts out the three sides of the graft; through