

Plantier, L. SPASMOPHILIA AND INTOXICATION AND EPILEPSY. [Rev. d. Med., Sept., 1916.]

Spasmophilia is here thought of as an inherited taint whatever that may really mean. It may develop, he holds, from lead or alcohol poisoning, and coffee or tea may by immoderate use predispose. Spasmophilia may develop from relics of meningitis or encephalitis in early childhood.

Retinger, J. M. THE SEROLOGICAL LOCALIZATION OF ORGANIC BRAIN TUMORS. [Archives of Internal Medicine, August, 1918.]

The author records some results gained in localizing gross brain lesions by using a slightly modified form of the dialysis method of Abderhalden for testing the blood serum. Of the cases in which this method was used, 25 had been sufficiently studied clinically, or verified by operation or necropsy, to be considered. The clinical diagnosis or symptoms were not known to the writer, who performed the serological tests in most of the cases. On the basis of the findings in this limited series of cases, the serological diagnosis was supported in four instances by post-mortem results, in two by operation, and in 15 tests were found to be in complete agreement with definite clinical evidence. Two cases differed from the clinical diagnosis, but the latter had not been controlled by necropsy or operation, and in one case the necropsy proved the test to be erroneous. These results seem promising. The principles of this serological method of testing are familiar. It is found that pathological processes, or even physiological processes as in pregnancy, occurring in organs may release into the blood stream ferments found to possess a specific digestive faculty for such organs; this faculty can be tested by the power of such serum to digest "substrates" of the particular organ suspected, obtained and estimated under delicate laboratory conditions. In these tests the substrates used were obtained from human brains from necropsies of normal people. All the large vessels were removed, and in the cortex only the grey matter was used. The pieces were cut into small particles the size of a pea and thoroughly treated to remove all blood, fat, and lipoids. Each substrate was labelled according to the site from whence it was obtained. Against these various substrates the serum of the patient was tested, the presence of its digestive power, as determined by the ninhydrin color test upon any particular substrate, indicating the probable involvement of the same area in the patient as that from which such substrate was obtained. A brief résumé of the cases examined is given. Case 10 is an interesting instance. Thirty-four different substrates were used. The motor area in the cortex showed pronounced positive reactions. The pituitary also gave strong reactions. The lesion lies in the anterior lobe of the pituitary. Diagnosis: acromegaly with occasional epileptiform attacks. Case 18 is also instructive. Forty substrates used. Lesion not in cortex. Most pronounced reaction with the cerebellar grey matter, dentate nucleus, anterior pituitary, and corpus callosum. The final diagnosis