

Spolverini, L. POSTDIPHTHERIC PARALYSIS. [Riv. di Clin. Pediatrica, December, 1919, XVII, No. 12. J. A. M. A.]

Spolverini queries whether the postdiphtheric flaccid condition of the muscles should properly be called paralysis, as the disturbances are more in the nature of myasthenia in the majority of cases and in four he describes here and compares with similar cases on record. In three of his cases the disturbances were arrested with antitoxin, and they retrogressed completely in from twenty to forty days. The larger the amount of antitoxin injected, the prompter the cure. In the fourth case the antitoxin had not been commenced until the twenty-seventh day, and only comparatively slight improvement was realized. These cases teach further the necessity for taking smears from the nose with postdiphtheric paralysis, as this may reveal virulent diphtheria bacilli. Some even assert that nasal diphtheria is more apt than other forms to be followed with paralysis.

3. SPINAL CORD.

Noïca and A. Radovici. SUPPRESSION OF THE BABINSKI REFLEX. [Revue Neurologique, December, 1919, XXVI, No. 12.]

Noïca and Radovici repeat the advice given by Babinski that it is never safe to state whether the Babinski reflex is positive or negative if the foot of the subject is cold. Cold will seriously interfere with the complete development of the reflex.

Schiboni, L. ACUTE MYELITIS IN EPIDEMIC ENCEPHALITIS. [Poli-clinico, 1920, No. 39.]

In the decreasing phase of the epidemic of encephalitis which occurred in Rome in 1920, the author had occasion to observe a case of very acute myelitis, developing with the phenomena of Landry's acute ascending paralysis. The study of the case is preceded by a wide review of the histopathological data interesting the nervous system in epidemic encephalitis. His findings are as follows:

The first are examples of characteristic perivascular infiltration, though presenting injuries of an acute character, similar, although not so intense as found in the ganglion cells. In the muscles, and particularly in those that during life had been subjected to intense clonus Schiboni and Bompiani found in the histological examination a diminution in number and volume of the fibers, and an augmentation of the nuclei; and here and there an augmentation of interfibrillar connective tissue and of the fat cellules in the internal perineurium. The author interprets such state of things as a simple atrophy, whilst the apparent increase of the nuclei is due to the shortening and tightening of the axis of the muscular fibers struck by atrophy.

The subject of the study of myelitis was an Irishman, aged nineteen, who, after having assisted at a great ceremony at St. Peter, feeling tired, as soon as got back to his dwelling took a cold shower bath. After