

tion of a clinical case resulting from a stab wound in the neck. Severe localized spasm was present, without actual contracture. Medical measures were unavailing, so Abrahamsen decided to lessen the reflexes and tried systematic muscle exercises. Half of each innervating branch of the muscles involved was resected. The nerves were reached through the popliteal space and the inguinal region. In the arm half of the median nerve was resected. There was no difficulty in getting at the nerves, and all the spastic phenomena disappeared with the exception of a slight foot-lift on stepping.

Salomonson, Wertheim, J. K. SOFTENING OF THE BRAIN AND CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE. [Ned. Tijdsk. f. Genees., May 31, 1919.]

Food shortage and restrictions in certain types of food has been associated with a decrease in male cases of cerebral hemorrhage and a four-fold increase in softening of the brain. The statistics for seven years show forty-six cases of softening to thirty-eight of cerebral hemorrhage; the first four years, however, show a total of only fourteen to twenty-one. Bread cards, introduced in 1915, and potato cards, 1916 were soon followed by restrictions in fat and meat; with the lowest point in rations reached at the end of 1918. The following phenomena were observed: a general loss of weight was followed by a decline in blood pressure. The pulse rate dropped to forty or fifty or even less in the morning. Blood pressure was variously reported from 7 or 8 cm. mercury, to Schlittenhelm's note of 4 and 5 cm. Weakening of the heart sounds at the base was a further phenomenon. The decline in blood pressure was not limited to elderly individuals with pathologic vessels. Thus the circulation was below par in all. In some pathologic arterioles circulation was known to die out completely, with resulting arteriothrombosis, which, when occurring in a cerebral artery, produces a focus of softening. Some of the smaller vessels are deprived of their full supply of nourishment on account of the low pressure and the reduced pumping power of the heart. The vasa vasorum suffer especially. Thus the increase in cases of softening of the brain, and the decrease in apoplexy is not a chance coincidence. Salomonson considers that the prognosis is more favorable with the former than with the latter, and reports that most of the cases of encephalomalacia improved markedly under medical treatment.

Dugeon, L. S., and Clarke, C. FATAL CASES OF PERNICIOUS MALARIA. [Quart. Jl. Med., July, 1919.]

Massing of malarial parasites in the cerebral capillaries was observed in twenty-one cases where the patient died in coma. In twelve cases gradual onset of the cerebral symptoms of drowsiness, mild delirium, apathy, and restlessness was noted. The remainder were already deeply comatose when first seen and previous history was un-