

CASE OF PURPURA HEMORRHAGICA.

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Man 50 years of age. At the age of 17 he contracted syphilis. He afterward married and had two healthy, robust children, but had taken much mercury. For the last eighteen months has had recurrent nasal hemorrhages which were controlled by packing his nose. The last hemorrhage which occurred on February 21 was severe. The patient was brought to me from Wilkesbarre, Pa., on February 22. The nose was tightly packed to enable him to take the long railroad journey. He had a temperature of 101° ; a red blood count of 3,800,000, hemoglobin 50 per cent, and a moderate leucocytosis. On the body were numerous purpuric blotches which he stated had recurred from the past eighteen months from time to time.

Treatment consisted in the removal of the packing from nose and naso-pharynx and its replacement as required to control hemorrhage for two days. Internally calcium chlorid (5 grains) every three hours was given and on the second day, 20 ccm. of horse serum (Mulford's) was injected.

The horse serum controlled the hemorrhage so completely that after twenty-four hours, packing the nose was unnecessary. After another twenty-four hours, it was possible to cleanse the nose with a syringe without producing hemorrhage.

Wassermann reaction was negative. There was a deviation of the nasal septum to the left and atrophic rhinitis. At the patient's urgent request on February 22, 10 ccm. of horse serum was injected although there had been no hemorrhage since the first injection.

The interesting features of the case are that mercury had possibly produced the purpura, and the prompt control of the hemorrhage by the injection of horse serum.

A careful examination of the nose showed nothing except atrophic rhinitis with deviation of the septum to the left. All edges and spurs on the septum were excoriated as well as the edges of the turbinates. There was a discharge of colorless transparent mucus on the right side, apparently from the posterior ethmoid cells and sphenoid antrum. In fact nothing more than would result from packing the nose to control hemorrhage was discovered by careful inspection.

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