

18. EXOPHTHALMIC GOITRE TREATED WITH THYMUS GLAND. P. James (Australasian Medical Gazette, vol. 16, 1897, p. 337).

The author reports the following case: A woman of twenty-eight presented the classical symptoms of Graves' disease and had lost much flesh and strength. She was treated with a 50 per cent. glycerine extract of thymus gland, in doses of a half teaspoonful to a teaspoonful, three times a day, for about a month. She experienced at times a sensation of depression shortly after taking the extract, and both before and after the treatment was begun she had from time to time attacks of vomiting and diarrhea, which prostrated her very much. Later tabloids of thymus gland were substituted for the extract. The initial dose was two tabloids three times a day. This was gradually increased until it was found that five tabloids three times a day was the maximum safe dose. She continued to take the tabloids for nine months. The tremor, sweating and pulsation gradually grew less, the pulse was slower, the patient gained weight and strength, and Graefe's and Stellwag's signs disappeared. Ten months after the treatment was begun she was able to eat heartily and to sleep well, and could undergo a fair amount of fatigue. Her pulse ranged from 84 to 88. The exophthalmos and goitre still persisted, but to a less degree. The other symptoms had disappeared. ALLEN.

19. THE THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF SPLEEN EXTRACT. C. Clark (Edinburgh Med. Journal, 3, 1898, p. 152).

The frequency with which smallness of the spleen is noted in the post-mortem records of insane asylums led the author—the superintendent of the Lanark County Asylum—to try the effect of spleen extract in the treatment of insanity. A fluid extract made from fresh bullock's spleen, an emulsion of the ethereal extract, and compressed tablets were employed.

About thirty cases were subjected to the treatment. Concerning these he makes the general statement that some were cured, others benefited, still others unaffected, but of only six does he give a detailed account.

Of these latter, five were more or less improved, one cured, but he is not at all sure that the result is to be attributed to the spleen extract. Under the use of the remedy, he noticed a general improvement in appetite and digestion, more or less gain in weight, improved blood condition, and specially improvement in nutrition of the skin, cold, dry and harsh skins becoming warm, moist, soft, elastic and of better color. On account of this latter fact he was led to try the extract in some cases of chronic skin diseases, with satisfactory results. In general, the extract seemed to have some stimulant effect, and, what is noteworthy, markedly increased the susceptibility of the patient to thyroid extract. Hence the author advises a preliminary course of splenic extract in cases which are later to receive thyroid, the latter being then given in much reduced doses. He has observed no toxic symptoms, but advises care, especially in the use of the ethereal extract, which he regards as the most active preparation. ALLEN.

- A DISCUSSION OF THE TREATMENT OF INTRACRANIAL TUMORS. David Ferrier. (British Medical Journal, 1898, No. 1970, p. 964.)

The percentage of operable tumors has been variously estimated to be from two (Seydel) to fifteen (Beck) per cent. The speaker considers seven per cent. a fair estimate.

Regarding the results of operation he first submitted statistics