

*On the Clinical Value of the Wassermann Reaction in Nervous Diseases*  
[*Ueber den klinischen Wert der Wassermannschen Reaktion bei den Nervenkrankheiten*]. (*Neurol. Cbl.*, 1910, No. 11.) Springer, H.

After examination of 241 patients, 56 of whom suffered from mental diseases, Dr. Springer arrives at the following conclusions:

In lues cerebri, the cerebro-spinal fluid reaction is nearly always negative; on the other hand the serum reaction is nearly always positive (in over 90 per cent.)

In tabes, the fluid showed positive reaction in 80 per cent., and the serum in 66.6 per cent.

In 106 cases of syphilis, without nervous disorder, the blood-serum showed, in the first stage, 72.7 per cent. positive results, in the second stage 92.2 per cent. (in latent condition of the same stage 60 per cent.), and in the third stage 93.7 per cent. (40 per cent. in the latent condition).

In three cases of syphilis, without disease of the nervous system, the reaction was negative. In five out of six cases of hereditary lues the serum test was positive. In non-syphilitic cases it was always negative.

Dr. Springer also emphasised the value of the Wassermann test in organic nervous diseases of children. HAMILTON C. MARR.

*Chemical, Cytological, Hæmatological, and Histological Studies of the Cerebro-spinal Fluid in Mental Diseases* [*Chemische, zytologische, hæmatologische und histologische Studien ueber den Liquor cerebro-spinalis bei Geisteskrankheiten*]. (*Jahrb. für Psychiat.*, vol. xxx, Nos. 2 and 3.) Wada and Matsumoto.

The results of these studies are summed up thus:

(1) Paralysis (certain), nine cases. In thirteen out of fourteen punctures "phase 1" reaction of Nonne was distinctly positive, and the whole albumen mass and cell-count much increased. In one case the albumen and cell reactions were at first negative, but on further examination gave positive results.

(2) In remission of paralysis the result was also positive.

(3) Fifteen cases of other mental diseases were examined. Out of sixteen punctures only one (a case of epilepsy) showed a slight positive albumen and cell reaction. On further examination of this case, "phase 1" reaction and the cell reaction were negative, while the total albumen mass was slightly increased. It is thus obvious that in some cases repeated puncture is necessary in order to finally decide the diagnosis.

(4) In the above quoted sixteen punctures "phase 1" reaction was fifteen times negative, the total albumen mass nine times, and the cell test thirteen times normal. "Phase 1" reaction has, therefore, the greatest differential diagnostic value for distinguishing paralysis from other psychoses. If the reaction is negative paralysis can be denied, even if the total albumen mass or cell-count is increased.

(5) In paralysis the relationship between the cell-count and albumen mass was not proportional.

(6) Among the cells of the cerebro-spinal fluid of paralysis there was 87 per cent. of small lymphocytes and also a very small number of large lymphocytes, polynuclear leucocytes, transitional forms, fewer epithelioid cells, and ependymal cells.

(7) In one case and in an acute exacerbation of paralysis there was polynuclear leucocytosis of the blood and relative increase of the same leucocytes in the fluid. This may be a sign that the paralytic poison is suddenly richly produced and develops its general working.

(8) Dementia præcox, six cases. In four cases the albumen and cell reactions were negative. A case which had had an apoplectic attack showed only a slight increase of cells, and in a case of chronic alcoholism the total albumen mass was somewhat increased.

(9) In the case of apoplexy in dementia præcox there was a slight increase of cells, no lymphocytes, and a remarkable increase of the polynuclear leucocytes of the cerebro-spinal fluid. At the same time there was no lymphocytosis and no change in the percentage of the single leucocyte varieties of the blood.

(10) Chronic alcoholism, two cases (one dementia præcox and one manic-depressive insanity). Both showed a slight increase of albumen, normal cell-count, and negative "phase 1" reaction.

(11) Post-apoplectic dementia, one case. Albumen and cell reaction negative.

(12) Epilepsy, five cases, six punctures. In one case, there were slightly positive results on the first testing of albumen and cells, as in paralysis, but on testing again "phase 1" reaction and cell-counts were negative, while the albumen was slightly increased. Further, there was a slight increase in the total albumen mass in two cases, a slight increase of cell-count in one case, and quite negative albumen and cell reactions in another. "Phase 1" reaction was in five punctures negative.

(13) Idiocy, two cases. Negative albumen and cell reactions.

(14) If there was a leucocytosis of the blood the cell-count of the fluid did not increase, excepting in the cases of paralysis.

(15) A proportional weakening of the percentage of similar kinds of leucocytes in the blood and in the fluid did not take place, except in one case and in an acute exacerbation of paralysis.

(16) The cell contents of the spinal fluid and of the meninges of the lowest sections of the spinal cord were not proportional.

(17) In the histologically examined cases it could not be testified that there were cases in which (as found by Merzbacher), without irritation of the meninges, there was an increase in the cell-count of the fluid.

(18) In three out of four cases in which there was a certain or probable history of lues the albumen and cell reactions were quite negative, so that it was quite easy to tell the difference between this and paralysis. Only in one case was the cell-count alone somewhat abnormal. The patient sometimes suffered from an apoplectic attack, and on histological examination there was found a cell infiltration into the pia mater.

HAMILTON C. MARR.

### 5. Treatment of Insanity.

*The Treatment of Hysteria by Psycho-analysis.* (*New York Med. Rec.*, Aug. 6th, 1910.) Parker, G. M.

The author seeks to co-ordinate Janet's method with Freud's, believing that each supplements the other. He associates himself more

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