Obesity, Hypogenitalism, Mental Retardation, Polydactyly, and Retinal Pigmentation: The Laurence-Moon-Biedl Syndrome. (*Quart. Journ. Med., new series, vol. iv, No.* 14, *p.* 93, *April*, 1935.) *Cockayne, E. A., Krestin, D., and Sorsby, A.*

Two families are reported, one of ten members of whom three, and possibly four, were affected, and another of four members of whom three were affected. There was no consanguinity of parents in either group.

In the first group no member showed the complete syndrome, but all the constituents of the syndrome were seen between the three patients. The eldest, aged 26, showed moderate adiposity, mental retardation and retinitis pigmentosa; there was no polydactyly and no obvious hypogenitalism. The second showed the complete Fröhlich syndrome, mental retardation and retinitis pigmentosa; there was no polydactyly. The third showed polydactyly in both hands in addition to mental retardation and retinitis pigmentosa; he showed neither adiposity nor hypogenitalism.

In the second family polydactyly was present in all three: on the left hand and both feet in the eldest, on all the four extremities in the second, and on the two hands but not on the feet in the third. Adiposity and mental retardation were present in all the three, as also moderate hypogenitalism in the eldest. The fundi showed the appearances seen in cerebromacular disease.

(Authors' own summary.)

Gargoylism (*Chondro-osteo-dystrophy, Corneal Opacities, Hepato-splenomegaly and Mental Deficiency*). (*Quart. Journ. Med., new series, vol. v, No.* 17, p. 119, *Jan.*, 1936.) *Ellis, R. W. B., Sheldon, W., and Capon, N. B.*

1. Attention is drawn to a syndrome characterized by bone changes, a peculiar facies, congenital clouding of the corneæ, abdominal distension with enlargement of the liver and spleen, and mental deficiency. The name "gargoylism" is suggested for the syndrome.

2. Ten cases are reviewed from the literature, and seven cases personally observed are reported.

3. Of the bone changes, the most constant appears to be dorso-lumbar kyphosis, due to deformity of the vertebral bodies. A variety of cranial deformities (hydrocephalus, scaphocephaly, acrocephaly, oxycephaly, etc.) have been described, and the pituitary fossa has in several instances been found to be considerably enlarged. The majority of cases have shown limitation of extension of the finger-joints, knees, elbows or shoulders. (Authors' own summary.)

Chondro-osteo-dystrophy of the Hurler Type (*Gargoylism*): *A Pathological Study.* (*Brain, vol. lx, part* 2, *p.* 149, *June*, 1937.) *Ashby, W. R., Stewart, R. M., and Watkin, J. H.*

The writers described two cases of the form of chondro-osteo-dystrophy which is termed "gargoylism". Both cases were atypical in that enlargement of the liver and spleen was not detected during life; the thyroid and pituitary were abnormal in both cases. In one of them a comprehensive study of the central nervous system was made. Except in a few minor details, the histological findings in the brain were similar to those described previously by Tuthill. The appearances resemble, in the closest degree, those found in the juvenile form of amaurotic idiocy, and the disease is stated to belong to the group of lipoidoses.

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Phenylpyruvic Oligophrenia. (*Arch. Neur. and Psychiat., vol. xxxviii, p.* 944, *Nov.*, 1937.) *Jervis, G. A.*

The writer describes a group of 50 cases of phenylpyruvic oligophrenia which he had observed himself. He considers that a genetic mechanism is of ætiologic significance and consists of a single recessive gene substitution. Clinically there