

Clinical Notes and Cases.

A Note on the Boltz Test in the Cerebro-spinal Fluid after Malarial Therapy in General Paralysis. By G. W. T. H. FLEMING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., Deputy Medical Superintendent, Dorset Mental Hospital.

THIS test on the cerebro-spinal fluid was first introduced by Boltz ⁽¹⁾, who found it almost invariably positive in general paralysis, and negative in the other psychoses. The test is not due to cholesterol by itself, but would appear to be due to either some combination of cholesterol with protein or some modification of cholesterol.

During the latter half of 1925 at the Sunderland Mental Hospital, 13 cases of general paralysis of the insane were treated with induced malaria by the subcutaneous route, the malarial blood being obtained from a general paralytic at the Lancashire County Mental Hospital, Whittingham, to the Superintendent of which our thanks are due. The blood was carried in a thermos in ice and was injected 10 hours after its withdrawal. Of these 13 cases, 3 died before the cerebro-spinal fluid was examined, and of the remaining 10, of which 9 had a positive Boltz test previously, 9 had a negative Boltz after the malarial treatment. One case, A. S—, whose Boltz test was negative previous to treatment, became positive after treatment.

In these 9 cases the change from a positive to a negative Boltz test suggests that as a result of the malarial therapy, apart from any obvious clinical and serological improvement, the parietic process which is responsible for the substance causing the Boltz test had become inactive.

Whether this improvement will be permanent or not remains to be seen.

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The complete results of these cases are being published in the *Newcastle-on-Tyne and Northern Counties Medical Journal*.

(¹) Boltz, O., *Amer. Journ. of Psychiatry*, July, 1923.
