

The authors feel that much of the published work on this problem is based on inadequate diagnostic data. The definite diagnosis or exclusion of congenital syphilis must not be based on the presence or absence of any single symptom or sign, but only upon the presence or absence of findings in the carefully investigated hereditary, chemical and physical constituents of the individual.

The authors present 31 cases of individuals having convulsions of the idiopathic epilepsy type, which they regarded as being of congenital syphilitic ætiology, basing their opinion on the above criteria. They conclude that congenital syphilis can produce convulsions, directly and indirectly, without the presence of gross brain lesions or encephalitis (juvenile paresis), and these convulsions have all the appearances of "idiopathic" epilepsy.

From a statistical viewpoint when compared with the total numbers of epileptics and the total number of congenital syphilitics, the occurrence of congenital syphilitic epilepsy must be regarded as unusual.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*Syphilitic Hydrocephalus in the Adult.* (*Brain*, vol. lv, September, 1932.)  
Greenfield, J. G., and Stern, R. O.

Hydrocephalus is a fairly common result of basal gummatous meningitis. Complete obstruction of the foramen of Magendie is not uncommon, and the foramina of Luschka may also be sealed by plastic meningitis. Syphilitic hydrocephalus is a more common *post-mortem* finding than the larger syphilitic gummata of the meninges. Minute gummata, sometimes of the miliary giant-celled type, are often present in hydrocephalic cases. Degeneration of the myelinated fibres on the surface of the spinal cord occurs in long-standing cases.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

*A Case of Recklinghausen's Disease, with Observations on the Associated Formation of Tumours.* (*Journ. of Nerv. and Ment. Dis.*, vol. lxxvi, October, 1932.)  
Kernohan, J. W., and Parker, H. L.

The authors report a case of Recklinghausen's disease in which besides the neuro-fibromatosis there were numerous meningiomas and four distinct gliomas of the spinal cord. These latter belonged to the astrocytoma and cellular ependymoma types. There was also a syringomyelia with a pre-syringomyelic stage at each end of the cavity. The neuro-fibromata of the cranial nerves and dorsal roots did not quite conform to the types of tumours supposed to be present in these situations in this disease.

G. W. T. H. FLEMING.

## 5. Pathology.

*The Influence of Septic Infection of the Sphenoidal Sinus upon the Cerebral Blood-supply.* (*Journ. Laryngol. and Otol.*, vol. xlvii, No. 12, 1932.)  
Pickworth, F. A.

The author shows how the cerebral arteries may be adversely affected by contiguous sepsis of the sphenoidal sinus and naso-pharynx. The mechanisms by which this takes place are discussed under the headings of diffusion of toxic