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Clinical Notes and Cases.

An Interesting Case of Meningitis. By NEIL McDIARMID, M.B.,
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THE following case is of interest because of the mode of onset and the causal organism:

Patient, A. B—, a woman, æt. 53, was admitted to Whittingham Mental Hospital on October 7, 1918. With the exception of several attacks of bronchial asthma she had enjoyed fairly good physical health since admission. She was also afflicted with slight deafness on both sides, but had no other evidence of aural disease.

On getting up on the morning of May 9, 1927, she was affected with headache and vertigo, with slight vomiting. On examination she was found to have a Bell's paralysis on the left side. It had all the characteristics of an infra-nuclear lesion. Spasmodic bilateral nystagmus was present and could be elicited in all directions, but was most marked towards the left side. Pulse, temperature and respirations were normal, and examination of the nervous system revealed no other abnormality.

Lumbar puncture on the following day showed the cerebro-spinal fluid to be turbid but not under pressure. The Ross-Jones and Pandey's tests were positive. The sugar content was '05% and the cell-count was 1,253 per c.mm., consisting of polymorphonuclear leucocytes and lymphocytes. The differential count was 87·5% of the former and 12·5% of the latter. No red blood-corpuscles and no organisms were demonstrated on this occasion. The Lange gold sol test gave a reading of 0011221000 and the colloidal gamboge a reading of 121000.

In spite of the cerebro-spinal fluid findings it was not until May 14 that she showed other signs and symptoms of meningitis.

The cerebro-spinal fluid was withdrawn on three other occasions, and on the last occasion (May 19) the cell-count was 7,732 and the cells were of the same type and percentage. The sugar content was '018%. The Ross-Jones and Pandey's tests were positive. The Lange gold sol reading was 0000012332 and the colloidal gamboge 001220. It was not until this withdrawal of fluid that any organisms were isolated. On this occasion a Gram-negative organism, microscopically resembling the typhoid bacillus, was demonstrated, but no growth was obtained on culture.

Death took place on the following day, and the *post-mortem* findings were those of a basal meningitis. The fourth ventricle and the cerebellar tissue immediately surrounding it was the area most affected. The ventricle was greatly distended with a thick, greenish exudate and the tissues in that area were softened and disintegrated. Microscopically the exudate was found to consist of pus-cells in various stages of disintegration, and the same type of organism as

found in the cerebro-spinal fluid was again demonstrated, but no growth took place on culture.

There were no evident signs of disease of either ear which might point to a cause of the meningitis.

From the findings in the cerebellum it may justifiably be concluded that the vertigo was due to the lesions in that area. The Bell's paralysis seems to have been due to an involvement of the seventh nerve on its exit between the olive and restiform bodies.

I am indebted to Dr. R. M. Clark, Medical Superintendent, for permission to publish this case, and to Mr. A. H. Fann for his aid with the laboratory examinations.

Medico-Legal Notes.

REX *v.* FREDERICK JOSEPH STOCKWELL.

THIS case was tried at the Central Criminal Court, on July 21, before Mr. Justice Branson. The prisoner was a fireman, aged 31 years. He was accused of the murder of his wife, who was found dead in bed on the morning of June 21, near to her being a shovel with the stem bent. The prisoner was found in the kitchen, with an artery in his arm opened, and with a wound in his neck. He was removed to a hospital, and he there made the following statement: "I had a good skinful on the day previous. I went to bed with the wife at 11. I don't remember getting out of bed, but when I came to myself I was battering her head in. I was frantic, and said 'Here goes,' and cut my throat and opened an artery in my arm." The facts of the case were not disputed. Evidence was given that the prisoner had suffered several times from malaria, when on war service in Egypt.

Dr. W. R. K. Watson, medical officer of Brixton Prison, expressed the opinion that the prisoner was suffering from manic-depressive insanity. While under observation he had once got out of bed, and run round the ward, apparently in his sleep. Dr. Watson considered that, at the time of the act, the prisoner did not know the nature and quality thereof. If the prisoner thought at all, he probably thought that he was doing something quite different.

Dr. W. H. B. Stoddart took the same view.

A verdict of "Guilty but insane" was returned, and the customary order was made.

REX *v.* GERARD ARTHUR MAXWELL WILLSHIRE.

THIS case was tried at the Maidstone Assizes, on June 28, before Mr. Justice Rowlatt. The facts were of a peculiar character. On