

Clinical and other Notes.

SOME NOTES ON A CASE OF KALA-AZAR IN MALTA.¹

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TOWARDS the end of June, 1911, I was called to see a male baby, aged 19 months, who was born in Malta, and had never been out of the island. The mother stated that the child had always been pale, but had been quite lively up till a few days ago, when it had become dull and listless. On examination, the spleen was found to be enlarged to within 1 in. of the umbilicus, and there was some fever. A blood examination gave the following results: Red cells, 4,000,000; leucocytes, 4,400 per c.mm.; hæmoglobin, 25 per cent.

During the child's illness, which lasted till the beginning of September, 1910, there was some irregular fever, but the temperature never rose above 102° F. The spleen enlarged steadily till the middle of August, when it extended to an inch below the level of the umbilicus. From this time the illness was complicated by diarrhoea and hæmorrhages from the bowel, and by numerous small hæmorrhages under the skin of the limbs and trunk. A blood examination on August 12 showed that the anæmia had increased considerably. The red cells were now 2,000,000, the white cells 3,000 per cmm., hæmoglobin 20 per cent. Towards the end of August the spleen had become much smaller, and when the child died at the beginning of September, it had retracted to a finger's breadth above the umbilicus.

Leishman bodies were found (post mortem) both in the liver and the spleen; in the latter they were very numerous.

The quarters where the child lived were situated at the top of a hill well away from other houses. No dogs were kept by the parents, and no bugs were found in the house.

CASE OF KALA-AZAR.

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A GUNNER in the Royal Garrison Artillery, aged 21; service, five years; two of which were passed in Malta (the only station abroad in which he had served).

The patient was admitted June 15, 1910. He came under my charge a fortnight later. He complained of weakness and breathlessness on

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