Clinical Notes.

A CASE OF ABSCESS OF CEREBELLUM, SECONDARY TO ABSCESS OF THE LIVER.

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No. 20487, Gunner W. M., 85th Company R.G.A., aged 27, was transferred to the Station Hospital, Darjeeling, April 4th, 1903, from the Station Hospital, Barrackpore, with "simple continued fever." His transfer certificate showed that he had been in hospital since April 6th, with fever of an irregular type. His blood had given a negative reaction to Widal's test. He had latterly somewhat improved, and was transferred to Darjeeling.

On arrival here he was emaciated and weak, but was able to walk. His complexion had a sallow tinge. His temperature in the evening showed a slight rise to 99°. He complained of no pain over the liver, but there was slight enlargement downwards. After a few days the evening rise of temperature became more pronounced, and he had attacks of diarrhoea in the early mornings, in which were traces of blood and mucus. It was suspected to be a case of abscess of the liver, and it was decided to explore that organ.

On April 18th, before any operation was performed, he complained of very severe pain over the frontal and occipital regions, and everything failed to give relief.

On April 21st he commenced to have attacks of cerebral vomiting, and during the night passed into a state of coma, in which he died early in the morning of the 22nd.

Autopsy, twenty hours after death. Rigor mortis was well marked, and there was considerable emaciation. The heart and lungs were normal, with the exception of some congestion at base of right lung.

Abdomen.—On opening the abdomen the liver was seen to be enlarged and pushed downwards. It presented a flattened appearance, and the upper surface was adherent to the diaphragm. It weighed 5 lbs. A large single abscess was found in the upper part of the right lobe, containing a pint of pus. The abscess was surrounded by a fibrous capsule.

Stomach.—The mucous membrane was congested.

Intestines.—The mucous membrane of the small intestine was congested. In the large intestine there were several large circular ulcers, some cicatrised, some healing, and others in an advanced stage of
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ulceration. The ulcers extended throughout the whole length of the large intestines.

Brain. — The brain weighed 3 lbs. 1 oz. The dura mater was adherent on both sides of longitudinal sinus, in post parietal and occipital regions. The surface veins were engorged. Section showed general congestion. In the left lobe of the cerebellum an abscess, the size of a walnut, containing dark-coloured pus, was found.

This is an interesting case of an abscess of cerebellum, secondary to abscess of liver. The abscess of liver was due to dysentery, and, although the autopsy revealed extensive ulceration of large intestines, the symptoms of dysentery during life were not very pronounced. The abscess of liver was probably of old standing, as shown by the containing capsule of fibrous tissue.

AN UNUSUAL CASE OF MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY.

By LIEUTENANT W. C. RIVERS.

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PRIVATE R., aged 31, of medium height and build, came to hospital complaining of weakness of the legs, and when one looked at them his calves appeared very thick and the thighs just as thin. Of this condition he gave the following history: Since coming to the station from Poona, seventeen months ago, he had been getting thinner "all over," but especially in the thighs. Some two and a half months back, when his thighs were already unusually small, he noticed a feeling of numbness and loss of power in the legs after standing on parade, while at the same time his calves grew thicker and walking taxed him, particularly when going up steps. He says that the swelling of the calves would subside a little after rest.

The man's family history contained nothing of interest, except that his mother, a field worker, died insane at the age of 45, and with a weakness of the hands, caused, he said, by rheumatism. His medical history sheet showed admissions for gonorrhœa repeatedly, and for chancroid, but there was no mention of syphilis. The above symptoms were the whole of his trouble, the general health remaining good. He was a marksman.

On examination of the nervous and muscular systems the following abnormalities were found:—

Motors.—Paresis of all muscles of the legs below the buttocks. This seemed fairly uniform, but the patient himself thought the hamstrings the weakest.

Muscular dystrophy.—Distributed roughly as atrophic in the thighs, and "preliminary-hypertrophic," or more likely "pseudo-hypertrophic," in the lower legs. The measurements were (maximum): Right calf 16, thigh 17⅓; left 15⅔, 17⅓. His gait is rather shuffling.