ABSTRACTS

EAR

Pathological Histology of Otogenous Brain Abscesses. G. S. BILINKIS (Moscow). (*Jurnal ushnikh, nosovikh i gorlovikh bolesnej*) (*Journal of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology*, Russian, 1939, xvi, 2.)

The following conclusions are deduced from histological examination of six brain abscesses:

The encephalitis does not develop through direct spread of the inflammation from the meninges, but arises in the brain substance itself as the result of penetration of the micro-organism, or its toxins, in the brain vessels.

Contrary to Neumann, it does not seem probable that the formation of the abscess capsule depends on the nature of the micro-organism. This was proved by a case of multiple abscesses, only one of which presented a capsule.

The capsule does not provide an absolute barrier between the abscess and the surrounding brain tissue, as the latter usually shows distinct signs of inflammation at a variable distance outside the capsule.

Any attempt to remove the capsule by means of a forceps, curettage, or even palpation of the abscess cavity with the finger, is entirely useless and very dangerous.

A. I. CEMACH.

Operative Treatment of Chronic Suppurative Otitis by Heermann's Method. D. E. ROSENHAUS (Charkov). (*Jurnal ushnikh, nosovikh i gorlovikh bolesnej*) (*Journal of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology*, Russian, 1939, xvi, 2.)

The classic radical operation described by Zaufal, has been completely abandoned at the clinic of the Central Ukrainian Otolaryngological Institute, and a modified transmeatal operation based on Heermann's method has been generally adopted instead. The modification used involves an incision along the junction of the upper and anterior wall of the meatus, from the annulus tympanicus up to the orifice, at this point turning back at a right angle across the upper and the posterior wall to the edge of the basal wall. Thus a flap, with a base on the margin between the posterior and inferior wall, is demarcated. After separation by means of a slender raspatory the flap is turned down allowing a very good visibility of the lateral attic wall, the back wall of the meatus, and the spina supra meatum. The bone operation of Stacke is then performed, and does not exceed the actual margin of the

diseased area ; the drum-membrane, or at least its existing parts, and the ossicles ought to be preserved.

Local anæsthesia of the meatus usually is quite sufficient. The loose gauze-packing is to be removed after 5 to 7 days, followed by daily cleaning of the meatus. No special after-treatment is necessary.

The operation is indicated in all cases of uncomplicated chronic otitis, the best results being obtained with cholesteatoma of the middle ear. Fifteen such cases were cured within three to four weeks, without a single failure. Less satisfactory were the results with chronic epitympanitis, or caries of the ossicles, or polyposis of the middle ear ; only 13 out of 21 cases concerned were dry and well epidermized after the same period.

The author admits that the technique of the endaural operation is more difficult than that of the transmastoid way, yet he denies any particular danger of interfering with the facial nerve, sinus, or labyrinth. The transmeatal access is preferable because of its quicker and better results, the most important being the preservation of the aural function. A. I. CEMACH.

The Influence of Supersonic Vibrations on the Ear of Animals. K. A. DRENNOVA and A. I. Pitov (Leningrad). (*Jurnal ushnikh, nosovinkh i gorlovikh bolesnej*) (*Journal of Otology, Rhinology and Laryngology*, Russian, 1939, xvi, 2.)

Report of experiments with supersonic vibrations (960,000 to 2,000,000 d.v. per sec.) on the ear of cold and warm-blooded animals (gold-fishes, frogs, mice, rats and guinea pigs). These revealed that the influence of supersonic vibrations, lasting ten minutes, on the ear of warm-blooded animals is a rather devastating one, causing hæmorrhages in the middle ear and labyrinth and grave alterations in the organ of Corti, especially destruction of its supporting cells.

In cold-blooded animals only small hæmorrhages in the tympanic cavity and a single slight swelling in the cupula of a gold-fish could be found. A. I. CEMACH.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Asthmatic Attack Studied through the Bronchoscope. A. L. D'ABREU (*Lancet*, 1940, ii, p. 421.)

The author found in the case of a chronic asthmatic man of 53, who had suffered for three years from increasing dyspnœa, that direct observation confirmed that the mechanism of the asthmatic attack was bronchial spasm and congestion of the thickened mucous membrane associated with the formation of fibrin plugs. An interesting point was the change in the shape of the carina by a spastic shortening.

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