

ABSTRACTS

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Colloidal Salt Nasal Tamponades: their use and abuse. GEORGE D. WOLF, M.D. (New York, U.S.A.). *Jour. A.M.A.*, February 2nd, 1946, cxxx, 5, 273.

Solutions of mild protein silver used either as nasal drops or on tampons have enjoyed considerable popularity both with the public and with the profession. In some well selected instances, this treatment may produce very satisfactory results and these results may be due to free silver ions. Prolonged nasal tamponage has no physiologic or pharmacologic basis and the method should be discontinued. The continued use of tampons may produce ciliary damage, nasal allergy or possibly argyria.

ANGUS A. CAMPBELL.

ŒSOPHAGUS

The Injection Treatment of Œsophageal Varices. CECIL O. PATTERSON, M.D. and MILFORD O. ROUSE, M.D. (Dallas, Texas). *Jour. A.M.A.*, February 16th, 1946, cxxx, 7, 384.

Œsophageal varices are not uncommon in splenomegalia or cirrhosis of the liver. These bulbous veins project into the œsophageal lumen and are daily subjected to trauma from swallowed food. Ulceration and rupture may result in massive blood loss.

Persistent and sternal distress occurring in a patient with suspected œsophageal varices indicates the need of X-ray study and probably œsophagoscopy and injections of any veins large enough to produce symptoms. The solution used for injection is 1 c.c. of 5 per cent. sodium morrhuate in each varix.

The writers have used this injection treatment in twelve patients, the youngest three years of age, the oldest sixty six.

From their experience, they feel the injections are well worth while, but further careful observations will have to be made to justify the procedure fully.

ANGUS A. CAMPBELL.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rubella in Pregnancy causing Malformations in Newborn. MAX J. FOX, M.D. and MORTIMER M. BORTIN, M.D. (Milwaukee). *Jour. A.M.A.*, March 2nd, 1946, cxxx, 9, 568.

Investigation is being directed at the present time to congenital malformation of the newborn of mothers who have had rubella during pregnancy. The congenital anomalies noted have been cataracts, deaf-mutism, heart disease, etc. All of the investigators fail to cite the total number of women having rubella in pregnancy and who had no congenital defects in the offspring. The writer presents data covering a three year period, noting the total number of recorded cases and investigating whenever possible all married women having had the disease and interviewing all pregnant cases as to the status of the child.

In a survey, 1942-1944, 22,226 cases of rubella were reported in the city of Milwaukee, of which 152 married women were investigated. Of these, eleven were pregnant at the time they had rubella. Of these eleven the disease occurred during the first two months in five, during the fourth month in four, the seventh month in one and the ninth month in one. In the eleven cases, one stillbirth occurred but all the others were normal. One of these women who bore a healthy child when she had rubella, gave birth to a child with congenital cataracts during a previous normal pregnancy.

Abstracts

From these studies, the writer does not think pregnancy should be terminated because of rubella but that further studies should be given to the subject of virus diseases in pregnant women. ANGUS A. CAMPBELL.

Inhalation Method for Penicillin Therapy: A Preliminary Report. E. W. HAGENS, MARY CARP and C. J. FARMER.

This report, by a team of workers in Chicago, relates to a series of twenty-two patients who were treated with penicillin by the inhalation method. Examination of urine and blood showed that a sufficient amount of penicillin was absorbed from the lungs to justify the use of this route as an alternative to other channels. The inhalation method had the added advantage of combining the local with the general effect, and for that reason it may become the method of choice in pulmonary disease.

Ten of the patients were cases of bronchiectasis, five suffered from pneumonia, four from asthma, two from pharyngitis and sinusitis, and one from abscess of the lung. Bacteriological examination was made in all cases, and in most cases Gram-negative bacteria were found, so that another antibiotic substance was necessary, one to which these bacteria are sensitive. The results of this preliminary trial were encouraging, and appear to justify continued investigation and the search for improved technique.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE.

An Analysis of Colds in Industry. JOSEPH H. KLER. *Archives of Otolaryngology*, June, 1945, xli, 6.

The common cold presents a major health problem which is the concern of all physicians, and is of special interest to the oto-laryngologist, as it is the chief cause of sinusitis and of deafness due to middle-ear disease.

The importance of the problem from the industrial standpoint requires no emphasis. Colds are responsible for more than one third of the total number of days lost in American industry, involving a loss of ten million working days each year, and of almost two billion dollars. The author of the present article reports upon a survey of the various factors involved, and he sets forth his data in a very interesting series of 26 charts. In his investigations he was assisted by the research staff of the firm of Johnson and Johnson, among whose employees the results were obtained. Colds show a definite seasonal incidence, highest in December and lowest in July. Sudden falls of temperature are followed by a rise in the incidence and also in the severity of colds. It is a curious fact that more colds start on Monday than on any other day of the week.

The incidence and severity are both much greater in women than in men, and the majority of colds in women appear at the time of menstruation.

The incidence and severity of colds is greater among office workers than among factory workers, and greater in draughty premises than in air-conditioned plants. Those who walk about in the course of their work are less liable to colds than those whose work is entirely sedentary.

Although the author vaunts no panacea for the common cold, he states that the duration is shortened by early treatment, staying at home in the early stage, together with the use of such simple remedies as aspirin and hot drinks or gargles.

DOUGLAS GUTHRIE.