Clinical and other Notes.

TREATMENT OF SPRUE BY PARATHYROID EXTRACT.

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MRS. R., wife of Lieut. R., a multipara, three children, who had been two years in India, was first seen by me on October 24, 1924.

She was at that time seven and a half months pregnant. During the early part of her pregnancy she had suffered from considerable sickness—this had never entirely ceased and for the past month had become worse; in fact, she could only keep down the lightest descriptions of food in small quantity. For the past six weeks she had also suffered from continual looseness of the bowels, "indigestion pains," and had lost weight to such an extent as to present an appearance of extreme emaciation when first seen by me. Weight six stone twelve pounds. There was a history, on inquiry, of occasional small sore places on the buccal mucous membrane, which came and went. The tongue was markedly sensitive to hot food, mustard, etc., and was lacking in papillae, furrowed and glistening and smooth in patches between the furrows. The stools were grey and unformed, often frothy and very offensive. In fact the case was fairly typical of sprue.

Treatment.—She was admitted on November 2 and from that date was given parathyroid extract \( \frac{1}{10} \) grain morning and evening, and calcium lactate thirty grains daily. In addition, a daily bowel wash of saline was administered. Feeding was difficult, even milk causing discomfort. Diet consisted at first of milk, weak tea, and then toast or Allenbury's malted rusks, and was gradually increased.

Pain after food was a difficulty, but this was greatly lessened by drachm doses of soda bicarb. given after meals.

After seven days of treatment, a slight but very definite improvement was established. The stools became a greyish-brown, no longer frothy, and began to be a little formed. The tongue less sore, no aphthae or soreness in swallowing. Appetite starting to return and spirits improved.

On November 11, slight labour pains started at long intervals at 6 a.m. At 4 p.m. these increased in severity and frequency, and at 6 p.m. a female living child was born weighing four pounds twelve ounces. Difficulty was experienced with the delivery of the placenta, and the chorion was a little torn. The puerperium was complicated by a degree of sapræmia due to a retained piece of membrane subsequently expelled—after that proceeded normally.

On November 30, the general condition was excellent—appetite good and food well tolerated. Motions brown and formed. Bowels regulated by liquid extract of cascara one drachm b.d.
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The baby was artificially fed from birth—any attempt at nursing being contra-indicated in interests of mother and child.

December 10.—Patient has gained in weight, is cheerful and looks a different person—is able to take any food of bland and simple nature, walks about the veranda and looks after her baby.

December 13.—Patient discharged from hospital and instructed to continue taking parathyroid.

Total parathyroid taken to date 7½ grains.

The case appears to illustrate in a dramatic manner the successful response to parathyroid medication that sometimes takes place. It may be that the premature labour was in some measure caused by the giving of saline bowel wash-outs. This risk it appeared wiser to take, my reason being that in a former case of sprue under my treatment, in which the bowel wash-outs were prematurely stopped, there was a temporary set-back which disappeared on resumption of the bowel washes. It would appear wiser primarily to treat the sprue and to let the pregnancy look after itself, rather than in any way to modify the sprue treatment. During the frothy motion stage the wash-outs are of undoubted value. There is no doubt of the value of big doses of soda bicarb. to relieve stomach pain.

The old treatment of sprue by massive doses of soda bicarb. was claimed to give relief.

When seen at the end of January, 1925, Mrs. R. had regained her normal weight, eight stone seven pounds.

She eats ordinary food without any discomfort, manages her house and looks after her baby, unaided. Stools normal and bowels regular.

NOTES ON A CASE OF SPONTANEOUS RUPTURE OF THE SPLEEN IN MALARIA.

By Captain W. Campbell.

Pte Q., aged 22, was admitted to the British Station Hospital, Allahabad, on September 20, 1924, complaining of severe headache, vomiting, and constipation of four days' duration. His temperature on admission was 101.2° F., rising to 104° F. in the evening.

On examination he appeared dull and listless; the skin particularly of the face had an icteroid tinge, but the sclerotics were clear. The tongue was coated with dirty yellowish fur. His general condition was poor; he appeared to have lost condition, and, on being questioned, admitted that he had not been feeling well for a fortnight prior to admission. There was no history of malaria, and he had no rigor or even a feeling of "chill" either before or after admission. The spleen was found to be definitely enlarged, extending for two-fingers' breadth below the costal margin, and extremely tender—so tender, that ordinary palpation could not be tolerated,
Treatment of Sprue by Parathyroid Extract

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