

How much I wish I had a pair of Mr. Lowndes' Bloodhounds here to try them against this desperate beast.

My friend, Fraser, killed a Wild Boar the other day, with his hunting knife, while engaged in the Bush with his dogs, a thing of no slight danger, as their gore is almost certain death. He is becoming a splendid shot, and is now stationed in a right good hunting Country where Buffaloes, Boks, etc., are to be met with.

A young friend has just returned from the interior, where he had a desperate encounter with a Lion single-handed, and after putting in two balls killed him with his knife by stabbing him in the heart, the Animal having sprung upon him; this is, even here a most unusual affair, and reflects credit upon the bravery and courage of the individual. He is, however, a Man of most gigantic proportions, and a Samson in strength.

You will not forget to make my kindest regards to all my old friends, who I trust one day to see.

Write oftener, it is a great pleasure to hear from home, and particularly from you, and do give me all the news, as you know I like to know what is going on.

I sometimes receive your letters while on a *Trek*, and take the opportunity of the first off saddle to stretch myself in the Shade, and, while my orderly sits Smoking or Cooking some Cos (flesh), read your welcome epistle.

Give a kind remembrance to all, and believe me ever,

Yours most faithfully,

W. N. IRWIN.

*George Cowley, Esqre.*

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## Current Literature.

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HEALTH NEWS. New York State Dept. of Health, 1926, v. 3, 9. Ten Cases of Poliomyelitis in Cortland. First Outbreak definitely traced to Milk.

This issue of the New York Health Department's weekly Bulletin contains a brief account of ten cases of poliomyelitis which occurred in Cortland in the last quarter of 1925, six of them arising during the third week in December. This is described as "the first outbreak definitely traced to milk." The six cases occurring in December were all found by Dr. A. C. KNAPP, health officer, to have consumed milk supplied by the same dealer, in five cases regularly and in one case casually. Further investigations revealed the fact that seven days prior to the onset of the first of the six cases, a boy engaged at the farm, milking the cows and otherwise handling the milk, had been taken ill with what proved to be a typical poliomyelitis, although he continued at work for some four days after the

onset. Prior to this, three cases had been reported, in all of which the date of onset had been given as October 7, but these all took their milk from other sources. Three further cases were reported as developing on December 25. Of these one had consumed the suspected milk, and the mother of another worked in a restaurant where the same milk was consumed. The third, a doubtful case without paralysis, did not consume this milk and had no contact with the other cases.

[The observations are certainly very important as the probability in favour of the milk being the infecting agent is very high, and if the evidence is accepted it gives a very clear measure of the incubation period. In the first six cases the possible limits are between seven and twelve days. If the three further cases are regarded as belonging to the same period the possible maximum is extended to 18 days.]

F. E. WYNNE.

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**MCEACHERN, J. Epidemic Bulbar Poliomyelitis. Report of Six cases with one Necropsy. *J. Amer. M. Ass.*, 1926, v. 86, 90-92, 3 figs. [4 refs.]**

This is an account of six cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis which occurred in Winnipeg during the latter half of August, 1924, in all of which there were symptoms of acute bulbar paralysis with involvement of a limb in only one case. The author quotes MEDIN, PEABODY and WICKMAN in support of the rarity of this condition. In his own series of cases the symptoms suggested that the region of the nucleus of the eleventh cranial nerve was principally involved, but this was not borne out by the post-mortem appearances in the one case in which a necropsy was obtained. Difficulty in swallowing and vocal changes were observed in all the cases and a prominent feature was the presence of frothy mucus in the pharynx and posterior nares. There was also paralysis of the sphincters showing the wide distribution of the lesions from the basal ganglia to the lower portion of the spinal cord. Microscopic examination showed the perivascular infiltration characteristic of these infections of the central nervous system, but a more marked feature was intense and diffuse inflammatory infiltration of the tissues of the pons, medulla and cervical cord. This infiltration was most intense in the spinal cord, illustrating the dissociation between the clinical symptoms and post-mortem findings. In the spinal cord the lateral and posterior horns were principally affected, little change being found in the anterior horns. Nerve cell degeneration and neuronophagia were marked features.

[It is interesting to note that herpes does not appear to have occurred in any of these cases.]

F. E. WYNNE.

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SHAW, E. B.; THELANDER, H. E., and FLEISCHNER, E. C. **Convalescent Serum in Heparalytic Cases of Poliomyelitis: Results of Intramuscular Administration.** *J. Amer. M. Ass.*, 1925, v. 85, 1555-8, 4 figs.

This is an account of five cases of acute anterior poliomyelitis treated by the intramuscular injection of convalescent serum. The cases occurred during an epidemic of the disease, and although the spinal fluid was not examined in three cases, the authors are satisfied that the diagnosis was fully established in every instance. All the cases were severe, and one was fulminating and the child apparently moribund. All recovered completely without paralysis, and the four temperature charts which illustrate the article are certainly most impressive. The dose of the fresh serum given varied from 40 to 92 c.c. The time elapsing between the onset of symptoms and injection of the serum varied from 5 to 22.5 hours. In one case, the worst, citrated blood was used on account of the urgency of the symptoms and serum not being immediately available.

Subdural injections had been employed by NETTER and others in France, and by AMOSS and his colleagues in America following the demonstration by LEVADITI and other workers that immunizing substances were present in the serum of convalescent monkeys and human beings. The intramuscular route was chosen in view of the fact that in its early stages poliomyelitis is a general infection carried by the blood-stream. The ideal would be intravascular administration, but the time lost in the laboratory in the necessary preparation of the serum to render such a procedure safe renders it impracticable. The intramuscular route was accordingly selected as offering the most rapid absorption combined with safety.

[Details of the technique employed in the preparation of the serum are not given and would probably be welcomed by other workers in this field.]

F. E. WYNNE.

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## Reviews.

**THE MIND IN DISEASE.** By M. P. Leahy, B.A., M.B. London: W. Heinemann, 1926. Pp. 178. Price 6s.

The author is a retired brother officer, known to many officers now serving, and the book is a record of cases cured by suggestion.

It is remarkable for being very free from theory, and consists, with the exception of Chapter I, in a record of a series of cases which have been cured by suggestion, very few of the patients attaining true hypnosis.

The author deals very vividly with the chapter, "Conditions I Cured in Myself," explaining the various mental processes and ideas which he conjured up to suggest his probable cure to his own mind and the progress of the cure of his depression and worry, constipation, insomnia, and morphia habit, fear of a vague unreasoning nature and self-consciousness, com-