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**HARE, E. S. - Tumor involving certain  
nerves**

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## TUMOR INVOLVING CERTAIN NERVES.

To the Editor of the Medical Gazette.

SIR,

If you are of opinion that the points connected with physiology and pathology in the following case, render it worthy of a place in your very valuable publication, I shall be much obliged to you to give it insertion.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
EDW. SELLECK HARE, M.R.C.S.  
House-Surgeon to the Stafford County General Infirmary.

September 11, 1888.

Thomas Willetts, aged 40, married, of an unhealthy complexion, was admitted to the Infirmary, under the care of Dr. Knight, on the 8th of last June. He had been attacked a month before with pain, tingling and numbness along the course of the ulnar nerve of the left arm, which was most severe at the elbow, where there had also been some swelling and redness. There was, besides, pain through the left shoulder, extending across the chest to the opposite side, and upwards to the left eye and teeth of that side; also a sense of pulsation in different parts of the body, and sleepless nights. The tongue was clean, appetite good, no cough, or physical sign of pulmonary disease, and the secretions were all natural.

After a careful examination, the only cause that could be discovered to account for his symptoms was a small tumor, situated in the "inferior triangular space," on the left side of the neck, which it was possible might be producing some pressure on the origins of the nerves going to form the brachial plexus: the pulse at the wrist was equal to that of the other arm. The tumor, however, did not appear to be more than an enlarged gland, and the disease was supposed to be of a scrofulous nature.

In addition to the foregoing symptoms, the pupil of the left eye became contracted; and the levator palpebræ ceased to perform its office, the general irritability increased almost to mania, and the bowels became very torpid. In about three weeks after his admission, the pains and distressing sensations appeared to be increased, the pulse had become quicker, there were signs of de-

bility, with numbness and coldness of the lower extremities; also by this time the tumor of the neck had become more extensive, and possessed a remarkable degree of hardness.

On the 20th of July he had almost entirely lost the power of sensation and motion in the lower extremities; and in a day or two afterwards there was a complete retention of urine. The catheter was used for about a week, when the urine again flowed, but without his being conscious of it; but he could partly empty the bladder when he chose, by the pressure of the diaphragm, scarcely, if at all, assisted by the abdominal muscles. On the 25th a slough began to make its appearance over the sacrum, but it occasioned him no pain. On the 12th of August the process of sloughing set in over each trochanter, he having been alternately laid on either side, in order to avoid the ulcer on the back. By this time the tumor of the neck had very much increased in size and prominence; the three ulcers became very extensive, and the suppuration copious; his strength gradually failed till the 26th of August, when trismus came on with paralysis of the muscles of deglutition and expectoration; and he died from suffocation at four o'clock on the following morning.

With respect to the treatment, I may observe that opiates procured him sleep, and relieved the pain without any unpleasant effect, and the eyes became more equally opened, and the pupils more symmetrical when he awoke in the morning. The repetition for a few days of exceedingly small doses of blue pill, which he took with extract of henbane, produced soreness of the gums and the mercurial breath. Leeches and blisters were repeatedly applied over the tumor, but without any effect. When the extract of belladonna was applied, the pupil of the left eye recovered its natural size for a time. Tonics and stimulants agreed, and no doubt prevented his sinking so soon as he otherwise would have done, from the inroads of the disease. For some time, also, his appetite did not fail him, and he took considerable quantities of nutritious food.

*Post-mortem inspection.*—The examination of the body was begun twenty-eight hours after death: it was now greatly emaciated. There was œdema

to a small extent in the legs and left arm.

The brain and spinal prolongation and their investing membranes were carefully examined, but no disease of any kind was detected. The optic nerves were of the same size and firmness: that portion of the medulla spinalis which swells into the cauda equina was particularly firm; there was little or no fluid in the great cavity of the arachnoid, not a large quantity in the lateral ventricles, and that in the spinal canal inconsiderable.

*Dissection of the tumor.*—After dissecting back the skin and platysma, from the left side of the neck, the superficial cervical fascia was found to be unusually dead, and the cellular tissue about it infiltrated with serous fluid. It being removed, the tumor presented its irregular surface, and was found to possess the hardness of schirrus. Some considerable veins passed into its substance, and it extended under the sternocleido-mastoideus and trapezius, raising on its surface the omo-hyoid, sterno-hyoid, and thyroid; which, however, were not implicated in the disease. After the removal of these the tumor was seen to extend upwards as far as the origin of the brachial plexus. The carotid artery, internal jugular vein, and pneumo-gastric nerve, passed into its substance; the first remaining pervious, the two last lost and transformed into the diseased structure, as were also the phrenic nerve, and further down the sympathetic, with its lowest cervical ganglion. The jugular vein above the tumor was atrophied, and the pneumo-gastric nerve was œdematous. The scirrhus mass extending under the clavicle, the latter was removed, and the following were its further relations:—The subclavian artery and vein passed into its substance, that portion of the anterior scalenus which separates the artery and vein, and nearly the whole of the muscle, being included in the disease, and undistinguishable. Both the artery and vein were pervious, but the latter was filled with a coagulum of a deep red colour. The tumor extended inwards as far as the trachea and arteria innominata, and downwards behind the left vena innominata and subclavian and carotid arteries, as far as the aorta, impinging upon it at the junction of

its arch with the descending portion. The thoracic duct passed into and was lost in the disease, as also were the recurrent laryngeal nerve, and the veins accompanying the branches of the subclavian artery,—the branches of that artery themselves passing through the tumor without being converted into its nature. The tumor lay upon the brachial plexus, being firmly attached to the spine at the origin of the third and fourth nerves of the plexus, both which were inseparable from it.

Upon cutting into the anterior surface of the scirrhus, watery pus escaped, and the surrounding cellular tissue was œdematous. The carcinomatous mass extended itself in company with the last cervical and first dorsal nerves between the transverse processes, and into the intervertebral foramina as far as to the dura mater, which appeared beginning to be implicated; but the canal was perfect, and the appearance of the theca of the medulla not at all altered. There was no appearance of carcinoma in any other part of the body.

*OBSERVATIONS.*—The case seems to be interesting as an instance of glandular scirrhus in the male. The connexion of the disease with the distress and paralysis along the course of the ulnar and median nerves is obvious, and is evidence in confirmation of the assertion that these nerves can be traced through the plexus to the last cervical and first dorsal nerve, which I believe Boyer denies. The paralysis of the levator palpebræ, which receives a branch from the third pair; the contraction of the pupil; the pain of the teeth; the distressing sensation across the upper part of the chest; the paraplegia; the sense of pulsation in various parts of the body; and the maniacal disturbance of the mind, cannot, I apprehend, be referred to any *direct* communication between the structural disease and these several affections, but rather they must be regarded as an instance of that remote sympathy which is found to exist between distant parts of the same individual, and is most frequently displayed in persons of a nervous temperament. The œdema of the arm might possibly depend on the existence, during life, of the coagulum found in the subclavian veins; but the swelling of the elbow, which occurred at a much earlier date, could scarcely be supposed to depend on



any impediment to the circulation at that period, and is interesting as shewing how pain and irritation of the nerves of a part, existing only sympathetically with a distant cause, may lead to structural alteration in such part, and is parallel to what occurs in hysterical females, of which I have seen many examples. The stoppage of the thoracic duct without much emaciation, perhaps is parallel to maintenance of "enbonpoint" by hysterical patients, with the most complete anorexia for very long periods. The length of time during which the patient was bed-ridden, and the degree of emaciation and debility, taken together, were not sufficient to account, of themselves, for the sloughs over the sacrum and hip, which probably owed their existence to the paralysis of the nerves of animal life; and the fact tends to demonstrate the influence of this part of the economy over the nutritive functions.

#### CASE OF VARICOSE VEINS,

TREATED BY MEANS OF THE TWISTED SUTURE.

(Communicated by Sir Jas. Macgrigor, Bart.)

ANDREW ROSS, aged 32, 84th regiment, admitted into hospital on 12th July, 1838, with a large ulcer over the front of the right leg. The skin is unhealthy over the whole of the lower part, from old cicatrices.

This man has served in the West Indies for ten years, and states that for the last five he has been subject to constant ulceration of the leg, and enlargement of the veins, which are now of a considerable size, and in a varicose state, from the groin to the ankle. The diseased branches on the leg are numerous, and very tortuous. Under these circumstances there was no hope of permanently curing the ulceration without first curing the varicose veins. With this view, seven common surgical needles were inserted under the different diseased branches, and the twisted suture applied firmly to compress the sides of the veins. One of the needles was put under the saphena, about the middle of the thigh. Slight inflammation was produced from the needles, ulceration gradually went on, and the needles completely ulcerated through,

and finally came away on the eleventh, thirteenth, and fifteenth days after insertion.

The ulcer on the leg got quite well, and the man was discharged to duty on the 17th August, feeling very comfortable about the leg, and without any enlargement of the saphena vein in the upper part of the thigh and groin left.

A. MELVIN,  
Surgeon to the Forces.

Portsmouth,  
31st August, 1838.

#### CASTS OF ANATOMICAL SPECIMENS.

To the Editor of the Medical Gazette.

SIR,

I BEG to forward you, for publication, an account of the process for casting from morbid anatomical specimens, which has lately received the silver medal of the Society of Arts.

The necessary dexterity is so easily acquired, and the expense is so trifling, that many may be induced to make trial of this method of preserving their preparations;—and as these are days in which any, even the smallest discovery in art or science, seems to furnish subject for attack and violent discussion, I would here wish to disavow any originality as to the nature of the composition of which the moulds are made, the undermentioned ingredients in various proportions having been in use amongst modellers and workers in plaster for some years.

The preparation (whether in the recent state, or having been preserved in spirit or in solution of any sort) is wiped nearly dry, and then arranged, so as best to display its peculiarities, upon a wooden slab of the required size and shape, this having been previously saturated with water, and wiped nearly dry.

Having been slightly fastened to this slab by means of pins, and all those parts in the subsequent relieving of which any difficulty is to be apprehended having been supported or filled up with moistened linen rag, the whole is immersed slowly and gradually (at an angle of 40 to 45 degrees) in the melted composition.\* Being withdrawn

\* This consists of Burgundy pitch and pure bees' wax, each one pound; yellow resin, two