

Sporadic cretinism

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University Correspondence College.

(Resident Branch—Burlington House, Cambridge).



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This Book should not be used for more than one subject, and different books should not be used for different parts of the same lesson.

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ANSWERING TEST QUESTIONS.—Write only on one side of the page, leaving the other side for corrections. In translating *Unseens* into English, and rendering English into Latin or French, write on alternate lines only, thus leaving the Tutor space to make ample corrections. Use a different book for each subject, but not for answering different parts of the same Test Paper; if, however, you prefer to use separate books for different branches, you must send stamps for extra postage, for the whole course in advance, to the Registrar.

Allow at least twenty-four hours to elapse between reading up a subject and answering a Test Paper. Unless this rule is observed, you cannot call the answers your own, and so they form no test of your knowledge. A Student may put on his answers, the time taken on them, for the tutor's guidance. If reference be made to a text-book for any reason in answering the paper, write "Ref" in the margin, so that the Tutor may see throughout exactly how you stand. Where a choice is allowed in questions to answer, omit those in which corrections would be least helpful. Solutions to all will be sent.

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Recent Medical & Surgical Treatment in Cases of Idiocy & Imbecility—

(G. E. Shuttleworth, M.D. Richmond
late Med. Sup^t Royal Albert Hospital
Lancaster)

During the last two years there has been a remarkable development of medical treatment in the case of sporadic cretins. Encouraged by the results attained in myxoedema by thyroid treatment—whether by grafting, injection, or feeding—several physicians have been led to try the method in those analogous cases in children, described so long ago as 1871 by the late Dr. Hutton Fagge under the name of "Sporadic Cretinism." Respecting these latter a Committee of the Clinical Society

presided over by Dr. Orel reported
that a general ^{review} of the symptoms
& pathology leads to the belief that
the disease described under the
name of myxœdema, as observed
in adults, is practically the same
disease as sporadic cretinism
when affecting children, & that
a very close affinity exists between
myxœdema & endemic cretinism -
Bourneville indeed classifies his
cases of sporadic cretinism
under the name of "Idiotie
myxœdémateuse". A photograph
of a sporadic cretin appeared in
Dr. Shaw's article on the facial
expression of insanity in the
Medical Annual for 1894 (p. 374),
& quoting from his description the
features presented are a "broad

face with a grave, old-fashioned look, pug nose, pointing lips, & protruding tongue; her skin is loose & baggy, her thyroid is not enlarged - atrophied - but she has fatty tumours above the clavicles. To this it might be added that there was some

Kyphosis
lordosis, protuberant abdomen, long bones shortened, & epiphyses enlarged (i.e. growth of bones w. developⁿ in cartilage was arrested), anterior fontanelle imperfectly closed -

In an interesting article in the J. of Mental Science (July 1893) Dr. Cecil Beadles tabulates 11 cases of sporadic cretinism treated by extract of thyroid gland. The earliest he records

is a case by Dr. John Lockhart
Gibson of Brisbane in which grafting
of the thyroid of lamb in the mammary
region (on) July 20, 1891, was marked
by very steady improve. for the first
6 months, followed however by a
subsequent relapse. On May 20, 1892
intraperitoneal grafting of lamb's
thyroid was done with the effect
that it "cured his myxedema &
lessened his cretinism". At the
Edin. Med. Soc. Dr. Affleck gave
an acct. of a case of sporadic cretinism
~~greatly~~ improved by the implantation
of thyroid on 3 occasions by Mr.
Caird. In the Lyon Medical S.
V Robin of Lyons reported on Aug
7, 92 the successful treatment by
thyroid juice injection (followed
by subsequent grafting) of a cretin

Aged 7. At the John. Med. Chi.
Soc. Feb. 16. 93. Dr. John Thompson
gave an interesting account of
a mild case of cretinism in a girl
of 4 treated by feeding with raw
sheep's thyroid - (at first $\frac{1}{8}$, and
afterwards $\frac{1}{4}$ gland, twice a week),
In an account published a year
later, she is stated to be improving
in every way, not only in strength
and appearance, but also in
vivacity & activity, & apparently
in mental capacity - In another
more typical case under the
same physician, a very marked
improvement ~~resulted~~ followed
the administration of sheep's
thyroid ($\frac{1}{4}$ twice a week), as will
be seen in the portraits at suc-
cessive stages, which by the

courtesy of Dr. Thompson we are permitted to reproduce. It will be observed that the lad though 18 years of age when treatment was commenced in Dec. 92 was only $33\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, but in July 1893 he had attained the height of 37 inches, whilst a most wonderful change of facial expression & of figure had ensued. Dr. Byron Bramwell likewise reported at the Edin. Med. Chir. Socy in Feb 93 a case of thyroid feeding, in which a girl of $8\frac{1}{2}$ years had grown an inch during 5 weeks. An extreme case of sporadic cretinism - a girl over 16 whose stature was but $29\frac{1}{2}$ inches - was described by Dr. Byron Bramwell in the British Med. Journal, for

Jan 6-94 - She was treated with
5 drops of Brady Martin's Extract
every other day, & the result as
shown by photographs illustrating
the case are simply marvellous -
After 6 months treatment the patient
had grown $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches (equal to
 $\frac{1}{5}$ th of her height before treatment)
the edematous infiltration of the
tissues had disappeared, the skin
from being coarse & harsh had
become soft & smooth, & the
facial expression from being that
of a bull-dog had assumed the
appearance of human intelligence
the breadth of mouth having
diminished from 6 cm to $4\frac{1}{2}$ cm
owing to reduction of size of lips &c
(mouth f. above downward $\frac{1}{2}$
5 to 3 cm) - Other ~~cases~~ ^{instances} of

The beneficial results of Thyroid feeding have been described by Dr. Carmichael of Edin. (Lancet March 23), Dr. Vermehren of Copenhagen (BMJ 6 Apr. 15 '93), Dr. A. G. Francis of Hull (BMJ 6 April '93), and the histories of 2 brothers so treated by respectively by Dr. Telford Smith & Dr. Baulton were given in the British Med. Journal of June 2-94. Illustrations of these cases are by the kind permission of these gentlemen reproduced, & the marked improvement in physique & in feature as the result of treatment is very apparent. The younger brother 9 years old when feeding with Thyroid gland was commenced (1/2 part of lobe being given twice a

week) improved more notably
than the older brother who was
14 when put under treatment
(36 grs. of raw thyroid gland
daily afterwards 2 to 5 Burgess's
Hockmeyer 5 gr. tablets). In
each however notable physical
improvement resulted: in
the younger boy there was a
growth of $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 9 months.
In the older an increase of 4 inches
in less than a year. In both cases
a tendency to excessive loss of flesh
was noticed in the early stage of
treatment - also excessive thirst -
but this was corrected by an
adjustment of dose. Dr.
Zelfrid Smith described in
a communication to the annual
meeting at Bristol of the

British Isles - then 13 other
cases of sporadic cretinism
treated successfully treated by
thyroid feeding & of these
in their improved condition be
all permitted to give a photograph.
From the summary at the close of
Dr. Delford Smith's paper, the following
remarks - which apply also to other
cases - are taken -

"They have been under treatment
for different periods, & are all at-
present taking one 5gr Tablet
(Barronage & Wellcome) daily at
dinner time

The improvement is well-marked
in each. The chief effects of
treatment may be summed up
as follows -

Coldest after the first dose

the temperature began to rise, gradually approaching the normal as treatment was continued.

At about 2 to 3 weeks the skin began to desquamate, chiefly on the hands, feet & face, & to assume a more normal tint & feel - it lost its dry, rough, waxy appearance, & perspiration became perceptible.

The myxoedematous condition of the subcutaneous tissues began to subside, & the outline of the features became more defined & sharp. The abdomen became less protuberant, the hands & feet less thick & spade-like, & there was a general loss of weight, which

if the dose of Thyroid was
excessive based on a state of
Emaciation. If however the
dose was kept at a minimum, the
previous loss of weight was made
up by healthy tissue. A comparatively
rapid increase of in height com-
-menced, & the previously delayed
Second Menstruation began to appear.
The Cutaneous Sensibility became
more near the normal, & the
marked constipation gave place
to a more healthy regularity. In
the 2 Cases where an umbilical
hernia was present, it became
almost imperceptible.

After about 2 or 3 weeks treatment
a gradual change became
noticeable in their temperament
& manners, the phlegmatic

gave place to a spontaneous activity, their expression became more lively & intelligent. They became playful & even mischievous & were constantly in motion, & the sickness of temper & its inclination to be amused, passed off.

When the treatment was suspended, a slow deterioration resulted, but the rate of this was much more gradual than that of their former improvement had been —

The two conditions, the temperature at night together with the state of general nutrition — afford a useful guide as to when a sufficient dose of Thyroid has been

administered. If the limb
can be kept at about 97.5
to 98°, & at the same time
emaciation is set up, the
physiologically useful dose
has been gauged.
Dose at first 3 gr. a day 5 gr. -
Burrington's Iodine Tablets
= according to age.

Can cretinism really be diagnosed
& treated & eradicated? but
we know that in cases of equal
degree, the younger we can
commence treatment the
greater will be the improvement.
The cretinoid form of imbecility is
certainly the one which offers the
most hope of improvement from
early & continuous medical treat-
ment, apart from special training.

University Correspondence College.

Recapitulation, Vacation, and other Oral Classes are held at the Resident Branch, Burlington House, Cambridge, and at University Tutorial College (Science Department of University Correspondence College), Red Lion Square, London, W.C.

The fees are in all cases reduced to Students of University Correspondence College.

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At Cambridge, Resident Students are admitted to the Matriculation Class at any time of the year.

At University Tutorial College, a Recapitulation Class is held during the three weeks immediately preceding each January and June Examination. The classes include daily lectures in each subject, and Private Tuition is given whenever deemed advisable. At Cambridge, Oral Instruction (consisting mainly of private tuition), is given during the same periods.

A Last Week Class in Experimental Science meets daily during the week preceding each Examination.

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(All the Classes are held at University Tutorial College).

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A Last Month Recapitulation Class for July Examinations in all subjects is held.

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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE.

(All the Classes are held at University Tutorial College).

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A Last Month Class is also held commencing four weeks before the Examination.

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