

Submitted by Dr. O. T. Bailey

This female child was admitted to the _____ Hospital _____ at the age of ten days. She was regarded as healthy until two days before admission, when twitching movements in the left arm were noted. They occurred two or three times a day.

On admission her temperature was 101°. A detailed history of pregnancy, delivery, family history and developmental history revealed no abnormalities. On examination, the left arm would contract rhythmically and sometimes the contractions would spread to the right arm. Fluid obtained by cisternal puncture contained 4000 W.B.C. (50% polys) and 8000 R.B.C. Four days after admission examination showed marked nuchal rigidity and left hemiparesis. Bilateral subdural taps were negative. Ventriculogram revealed dilated lateral 5th and 6th ventricles and "a porencephalic cyst."

Intensive treatment with penicillin, streptomycin and chloromycetin had no effect on the patient's condition or fever, which continued in irregular spikes. The child was kept in the hospital, and five months later penicillin and terramycin were used intensively without further benefit. The child was discharged seven months after admission, and re-admitted one month later in extremis and died before intravenous therapy could be instituted.

Autopsy: The only positive finding in the general autopsy was bilateral bronchopneumonia. No lesions similar to those in the brain were found in any of the viscera. The brain weighed 120 grams. There was a large bilateral and symmetrical defect in the cerebral mantle, which was represented by a thin membrane irregularly mottled with brown, and in this structure were many small brown-tinged cavitations. The corpus callosum was absent. The structures of the deep cerebral gray matter were small, firm, but were more or less normal in distribution. Section through the brain stem showed the aqueduct represented by a small dot. There were scattered circumscribed cavitations throughout the brain stem, though most of the landmarks could be identified. Sections through the cerebellum showed well developed dentate nuclei, but there were occasional small circumscribed cavitations in the white matter.