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New York University - Bellevue Medical Center

This 21 year old woman died of pulmonary disease, which included tuberculosis, obliterative bronchiolitis, and a terminal pneumonitis. She had experienced frequent generalized convulsive seizures since birth, and was considered mentally impaired. There were no other neurological abnormalities.

Autopsy revealed the white matter of the posterior half of the right cerebral hemisphere to be gray, retracted and softened. No gross abnormalities were recognized in the overlying cortex or in any other portion of the brain. Microscopically, a degeneration of the nucleus gracilis bilaterally, and a loss of Purkinje and granule cells in some cerebellar folia, were observed in addition to the changes limited to the grossly altered portion of the right cerebral hemisphere, which are illustrated in the sections of the right temporal lobe submitted for discussion. There was a marked atherosclerosis limited to the coronary arteries, abnormalities in the lung as already noted, but no other significant findings.