in the sections. The mucous membrane was partly necrotic. Many large foci of lymphocytes were seen in all the layers, and there was an extensive eosinophilic infiltration. Except for the eosinophilia the appearances were characteristic of tubercle; but this type of lesion is usually regarded as non-tuberculous, and was described by Crohn as regional ileitis. Our patient showed no sign of tuberculosis elsewhere.

COMMENTARY

Crohn's disease is not common, and for it to appear as an acute obstruction is still less so. Usually the patient is operated upon through a small incision for chronic appendicitis, and the appendix is removed without the real nature of the disease being realized. The condition then goes on to fistula formation or the patient has repeated attacks of subacute obstruction. This might well have happened in our case had not the pea caused an acute obstruction at a relatively early date.

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Depressed Fracture of the Sternum

John B. Hartzell (1935) stated that fracture of the sternum is an exceedingly rare condition, and that it is often complicated by fractures of the ribs or spine. Holderman (1928) found sixty-two cases among 46,237 fractures of all types—an incidence of 0.075%. The following case of depressed fracture of the sternum due to indirect injury may therefore prove interesting.

CASE REPORT

The patient, a woman aged 67, was admitted on May 5, 1941, after having fallen downstairs. She was suffering from shock, and had considerable difficulty with respiration. She complained of pain over the upper dorsal region and severe pain and tenderness over the upper end of the sternum, where there was a depression about an inch deep in place of the normal angle of Ludwig. There were no bruises or abrasions of the skin over either the sternum or the dorsal spine. Clinical examination revealed no involvement of the spinal cord. The patient had apparently fallen with her head flexed forwards, as in gambolling, the fracture being due to hyperflexion. A radiograph revealed a fracture of the sternum at the junction of the manubrium and the body (the upper fragment being displaced behind the lower) and a compression fracture of the fifth dorsal vertebra.

On May 7 a plaster jacket was applied in hyperextension; this extended to the mandible anteriorly and to the lower lumbar region posteriorly. Difficulty was experienced in obtaining enough hyperextension owing to pre-existing kyphosis, but the patient was much more comfortable after the application. A later radiograph showed a very satisfactory position: the depression was corrected, and the manubrium and body of the sternum were in line.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr. L. A. Dingley, senior honorary surgeon to the hospital, for his kind assistance and permission to publish this case, and also to Sister Burrows of the x-ray department.

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At the suggestion of Dr. G. Jedlewski, medical adviser to the Polish President (M. Raczkiewicz), a special medical board has been formed in London to prepare plans for fighting epidemics which may break out in Poland at the end of the war, and thus to prevent the spread of infectious disease to Western Europe and Great Britain. The board, acting in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, will also collect medical supplies so that immediate help may be ready at the end of the war.

Reviews

CARDIAC CLASSICS

Cardiac Classics. A Collection of Classic Works on the Heart and Circulation. With Comprehensive Biographic Accounts of the Authors. By Frederick A. Willius, M.D., M.S., and Thomas E. Keys, M.A. (Pp. 858; illustrated. 50s. net.) London: Henry Kimpton. 1941.

To have compiled a work of this character must have involved great labour and research. The authors are therefore to be warmly congratulated on having accomplished so much. In a concise form they have put together important extracts from all the writings of physicians or surgeons who have contributed to our knowledge of the structure of the heart or the diseases affecting it. Such extracts may surely be happily termed "cardiac classics." Omitting all tentative references to the heart in times before Harvey, they begin with the story of the circulation of the blood by giving a full translation of *De Motu Cordis* and end with James Herrick's description of coronary thrombosis. There is a picture of each writer who has extended our knowledge of the structure of the heart or its diseases, together with a short account of his early education and life's work, which is often of particular interest. Then there are a number of excerpts from his writings, sometimes of special value, as in the case of Heberden, where a full account of angina pectoris is given; also of Austin Flint, who wrote widely on all phases of medicine, though his name is most thought of in association with the presystolic murmur sometimes accompanying aortic regurgitation.

It is curious to note how in the case of so many of these physicians, apart from their writings in connexion with the heart, they have contributed much of importance to other departments of medicine. Thus Corrigan (1802-80), in addition to his masterly account of aortic regurgitation, also wrote on fibroid disease of the lung, which was for long known as "Corrigan's cirrhosis." Again, William Gowers, so distinguished as a neurologist, is here included because of his description of the retinal vessels in cases of hypertension. It might have been well to have given more than a passing notice to Vieussens of Montpellier (1641-1710) and to Albertini of Bologna (1672-1733).

In a useful appendix these cardiac classics are correlated with other historical events. Thus Auenbrugger's introduction of percussion was contemporary with the Seven Years' War, and Laennec produced the stethoscope and auscultation two years before the death of Napoleon. In this way the authors draw medicine into connexion with general history, and prevent it from becoming too much isolated from the main current of the life of the world.

R. O. MOON.

EPILEPSY AND MIGRAINE

Science and Seizures: New Light on Epilepsy and Migraine. By William Gordon Lennox, M.D., Sc.D.Hon. (Pp. 258; illustrated. \$2.00.) New York: Harper and Brothers. 1941.

Dr. Lennox, who for more than twenty years has taken the lead in the investigation of epilepsy in the United States, has written this book in order to make available to all who are interested in epilepsy, which includes patients and their relatives and social workers as well as doctors, the new ideas on the nature of this disorder which recent investigations have brought to light. It is thus a popular book of a kind with which we in this country are not familiar, but throughout it is entirely scientific. Four-fifths of it is