It is probable that this condition is more common than supposed. Prof. F. J. Browne has found that the lungs of stillborn fetuses often float in water, which shows that some aeration has taken place. This post-mortem test of stillbirth is thus of little significance. DeLee said that he has heard babies sneeze and cough *in utero*, and even hiccup.

We have seen that at an early date in development the movements of respiration have been tried out. For a cry to be heard, however, there must be air in the uterus, with a variable degree of foetal anoxaemia, rise in CO₂ pressure, and peripheral stimulation. The cry will be quiet and whimpering if the asphyxia and peripheral stimulation are slight, but loud and gasping if these are severe. It is in the last group that the foetus is distressed and requires immediate delivery. In our case there is little doubt that air was drawn into the uterus along the examining hand between pains, and the long second stage and prolonged manipulation caused partial asphyxia and stimulation of the foetus. Rapid delivery possibly saved the child's life.

I must thank Mr Eardley Holland and Mr. Alan Brews for permission to publish this case and for their help.

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Medical Memoranda

Paralysis of the Serratus Anterior following Glandular Fever

So far only one case of this condition appears to be recorded in the literature, and that was by J. S. Richardson (*Lancet*, 1942, **1**, 618); but in his case the paralysis developed during the third week of illness and cleared up in four months, whereas in the one which came under my observation—a persistent serratus magnus palsy following glandular fever—the paralysis developed five days later, and is still present a year after the onset.

CASE HISTORY

A soldier aged 25 developed a sore throat on April 27, 1942. A throat swab showed Vincent's organisms; culture negative for K.L.B. On May 8 there was a rise in temperature, with an erythematous rash over the chest and marked glandular enlargement in the neck on both sides. The spleen also was probably enlarged, but no enlargement of glands was noticed elsewhere. The rash disappeared after a few hours, but the temperature was still raised. It was thought to be a case of rubella, but as the patient had had a definite attack of rubella two years previously this was improbable. The glands continued enlarged and tender, and remained so for six or seven weeks.

On May 9 a white cell count gave 11,200 per c.mm.—neutrophils 29%, lymphocytes 66%, monocytes 4%, eosinophils 1%. There was severe pain in the right shoulder, with inability to sleep. On the 11th there developed severe paralysis of the right serratus anterior muscle with no sensory changes and no meningeal symptoms. Pain disappeared at onset of paralysis. The Paul-Bunnell reaction was positive in a serum dilution of 1 in 900. On the 12th the test was repeated, and was still positive at 1 in 900. Throat and nasal swabs were taken and cultured for K.L.B., but the result was negative; also, no Vincent's organisms were found.

On May 16 the white cells numbered 5,700 per c.mm.—neutrophils 39%, lymphocytes 51%, monocytes 9%, eosinophils 1%. The faradic response in the right serratus anterior was very weak. Radiographs of the cervical spine were negative. On June 22 lumbar puncture produced a clear fluid under normal pressure. No leucocytes were seen in 1 c.mm. Total protein, 45 mg. per 100 c.cm.; sterile. Since then the patient has had splinting and physiotherapeutic treatment.

On May 12, 1943, the vertebral border of the scapula, and especially the lower angle, still stood out prominently behind, giving a characteristic winged appearance to the back. The arm could be pushed forward, but weakly. I could not elicit any response to faradism or galvanism in the right serratus anterior muscle. Although the functional recovery is about 50%, it is obvious that this is due to the function of the serratus anterior being taken by other muscles, as that muscle is still paralysed.

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Reviews

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Municipal Year Book and Encyclopaedia of Local Government Administration, 1943. (Pp. 1,343. 42s.) London: Municipal Journal Limited.

Many new matters have appeared on the agenda of local government since the *Municipal Year Book* was first published in 1897, so many that one wonders what Victorian aldermen and councillors found to talk about. The most recent matter and the most peremptory is civil defence with its various ramifications—provision and maintenance of shelters, arrangements for evacuation, communal feeding, care of the bombed-out, fire, first-aid, and decontamination services. It was argued at first, before experience disproved it, that to add civil defence to the other functions of local government would be, not indeed the last straw, but the last big bale of hay on this patient camel's back. But that was to reckon without the adaptability and resourcefulness of those who administer local affairs, especially the permanent local government service. Never before has local government touched life at so many points, and it has its reward in a quickened public appreciation which has displaced the old apathy. It is beginning to be realized by the average citizen that his happiness, safety, and environmental health depend upon the town hall more than upon the Palace of Westminster. This most important side of community life has a guidebook worthy of it. There is not a fact or figure, name or emblem connected with local government, from the city corporation down to the seven-hundredth rural district council, which is not to be found in these 1,300 closely packed and well-sectioned pages. The yearbook is primarily a directory, but it is also an annual review of the chief events in local government, and among other things it gives a good summary of the different reports, statistics, and tendencies in the field of public health. Incidentally it shows how various is the structure of local government. In England and Wales there are 62 county councils, 83 county borough councils, more than 300 councils of other municipal authorities, and nearly 600 urban district councils. A growing feature and sign of things to come is the number of joint boards and committees, covering water and gas, sewerage and burial, and in Scotland poorhouses and district asylums, venereal diseases, and the welfare of the blind; but of all joint boards those which have to do with hospitals are most numerous, totalling 212 in England and Wales.

LARYNGEAL SURGERY

Diseases and Injuries of the Larynx. A Textbook for Students and Practitioners. By Chevalier Jackson, M.D., Sc.D., LL.D., F.A.C.S., and Chevalier L. Jackson, M.D., M.Sc., F.A.C.S. Second edition. (Pp. 633; illustrated. 36s.) New York and London: The Macmillan Company, 1942.

A second edition of *The Larynx and its Diseases*, by Chevalier Jackson and Chevalier L. Jackson, has been issued under the title *Diseases and Injuries of the Larynx*. The present edition does not differ in essentials from the first (reviewed in these columns on Oct. 16, 1937), but is longer because a chapter on war surgery of the larynx has been added. This is rather out of keeping with the rest of the book, which is almost entirely based on Jacksonian observation and experience, while the new chapter does not give any indication of personal experience in the surgery of war, except in the matter of the effects of poison gas, which so far has not been employed in the present conflict. The authors have changed their views to some extent on the surgical treatment of cancer of the larynx, but they still give a quite inadequate picture of what can be accomplished in the surgical treatment of the intrinsic variety of the disease, and the statement that in the "*extrinsic type of cancer surgery is worse than useless*" ignores what has been accomplished by others, and coming from such an authority must hinder any attempts at progress in this direction. In all other aspects of laryngeal surgery the book reveals what can be done by patient endeavour often extended over long periods, and how great is the debt of laryngology to endoscopy as practised and taught in the Jacksonian clinic. The book is of more value as a picture of how a great master of his art sees it and practises it than as the complete textbook at which he has aimed, for there is no attempt to keep abreast of recent