She was x-rayed again on June 9. This showed a rather large stomach, but no sign of any recurrence of the hernia. She has remained entirely free from gastric symptoms since her discharge from the hospital, and six months after the operation had had no further trouble.

COMMENT

The case is interesting on account of the condition found at operation, where the stomach was twisted and enormously distended, and by the rapid recovery of the gastric functions in spite of the excessive stretching of the muscular and mucous wall of the stomach. How the torsion had occurred must be a matter of pure conjecture, but the impression at the time of the operation was that the pyloric end of the stomach had been dragged or twisted to the left side into the hernial orifice. The original radiograph, taken in 1939, showed the ordinary condition of herniation of the fundus.

London, W.1.

HAROLD GARDINER, M.S., F.R.C.S.

Varicella and Herpes Zoster in the Same Patient

It is very unusual to encounter the characteristic eruptions of chickenpox and herpes in the same patient, and I am not aware of any record of a similar case in a child. The significant features appear to be the allergic history and the somewhat diffuse distribution of the herpetiform eruption apparently involving the anterior divisions of numerous nerve roots.

The patient, a boy aged 5½ years, is an only child, sensitive, highly strung, precocious, allergic to pollens and mixed inhalants group. The father has a history of allergy in his childhood. The boy developed typical chickenpox on Dec. 29, 1943. The attack was mild, being afebrile after two days. On Jan. 22, 1944, there was an eruption of herpetic vesicles on the right side extending from the clavicle and deltoid area over the chest and abdomen to the upper half of the right thigh. The eruption was limited by the midline in front and by the mid-axillary line. Apart from the discomfort of the eruption, there were no unusual symptoms until Jan. 27, when the temperature rose to 102° F. and the next day to 104°. It gradually subsided, and was normal by Feb. 3.

On Feb. 2 he had some malaise accompanied by loss of appetite, dirty tongue, enlarged and tender liver, and pale stools; there was no obvious jaundice to the naked eye, but bile was present in the urine. This lasted two days and rapidly cleared up. On Feb. 14 he had an attack of typical asthma.

I am indebted to Dr. S. R. Foster, the family physician, for his interest and co-operation, and for some of the additional clinical notes.

Belfast.

F. M. B. ALLEN, M.D., F.R.C.P.

Concurrent Herpes Zoster and Varicella

The following case seems worthy of record if only for its extreme rarity. The relation between herpes zoster and varicella was first noticed by J. Van Bokay in 1892. Since then the relationship has attracted much attention, and most practitioners are agreed as to the increased incidence of herpes zoster in epidemics of varicella. Up to 1930 Netter of Paris had been able to collect only 20 cases of concurrent herpes zoster and varicella, and some eminent authorities were inclined to attribute the concurrence to mere coincidence. Cranston Low has advanced the theory that both diseases are due to the same virus, in one case affecting the nervous system and in the other being blood-borne. The case described below seems to favour this theory.

A man aged 63 came to see me on March 9, 1944, complaining of pain in the left hypogastrium with a generalized rash. On examination I found typical symptoms of varicella as to both lesion and distribution. In addition the painful area showed typical herpes zoster. He stated that he had felt "off colour" on March 5. By evening he had pain in the left side and found some "blisters," and at the same time felt an irritation of the face and scalp. On the morning of the 6th he was covered with a well-developed rash. Both rashes have since run a normal course. The patient is a chronic bronchitic who has not worked for months, and he shares a house with another elderly man. There is an epidemic of varicella at the time of writing (March 29).

Additional points of interest are: (1) the coincident appearance of the rashes; (2) the age of the patient.

Warrington, Lancs.

J. J. MANNING, M.B.

The Professional Advisory Committee of the U.S. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation held its first meeting in Washington on March 3. The committee, made up of 20 specialists in medical and allied fields, was appointed to provide professional guidance in mapping the new State-Federal programme for medical and surgical care under the Barden-LaFollette Act. In opening the meeting Mr. Paul V. McNutt stressed the Federal Security Agency's desire to aid the States in providing physical restoration services which will conform to the high professional standards recognized by the national and State medical associations and by the hospital associations.

Reviews

GENERAL AND SPECIAL BIOCHEMISTRY

Annual Review of Biochemistry. Edited by James Murray Luck. Associate Editor, James H. C. Smith. Volume XII. (Pp. 704. 31s. 6d.) California: Stanford University P.O., Annual Reviews, Inc.; London: H. K. Lewis and Co.

Vitamins and Hormones. Edited by Robert S. Harris and Kenneth V. Thimann. With a foreword by E. V. McCollum. Volume I. (Pp. 452. \$6.50.) New York: Academic Press, Inc.

The twelfth volume of these annual reviews is, like earlier ones, a co-operative effort of American and British experts—three chapters having been contributed by writers in this country and the other twenty-one by United States scientists. The standard of previous volumes is admirably maintained. The individual articles are detailed, highly technical, authoritative surveys generally covering a period of four or five years, which is about the time allowed by the editors before a subject is picked up again. Readers of this *Journal* will find much here that bears indirectly but fundamentally on medical practice, if sometimes possibly only on future practice; but they will also be able to read with a more direct interest chapters on nutrition in 1941 and 1942 (C. S. Lanford and H. C. Sherman), on synthetic drugs (T. C. Daniels), on the metabolism of proteins and amino-acids (H. B. Cook and J. W. Dubnoff), of fat (G. O. Burr and R. H. Barnes), and of carbohydrate (H. J. Deuel, jun.), as well as accounts of the water-soluble and the fat-soluble vitamins (R. J. Williams and K. Hickman respectively). Of practical interest, in a rather different way, are chapters on the electron microscope in biology (L. Marton) and on microchemistry (A. A. Benedetti-Pichler), while for those with a taste for the more fundamental and theoretical sides of biochemistry H. A. Krebs has written on carbon dioxide assimilation in heterotrophic organisms, E. S. Johnston and J. E. Myers on photosynthesis, and F. Lipmann on biological oxidations and reductions. Other chapters are concerned with the primarily chemical aspects of steroids (H. Sobotka and E. Block), of proteins and amino-acids (L. F. Hewitt, R. A. Kekwick, and A. S. McFarlane), of sulphur compounds (J. C. Andrews), of carbohydrates (H. S. Isbell), of the lipids (S. J. Thannhauser and G. Schmidt), of hormones (H. Fraenkel-Conrat), of animal pigments (C. Rimington), and of viruses (C. L. Hoagland). Finally, to round off the picture, astonishingly complete for wartime, there are reviews of mineral nutrition (L. A. Maynard and J. K. Loosli) and of mineral nutrition of plants (D. I. Arnon). The book is as indispensable to research workers and teachers in or near the field of biochemistry as have been its predecessors in this excellent series.

Prof. McCollum in his foreword refers to *Vitamins and Hormones* as a new publication, as indeed he had to do when introducing a "Volume I." But those who know and possibly possess the two issues of *Ergebnisse der Vitamin- und Hormonforschung*, published by the Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft of Leipzig in 1938 and 1939, may reasonably regard this survey as more of a phoenix than a new creation. However that may be, the United States compares in every way favourably with its Swiss-German predecessor. Nothing, for example, could be better done than Prof. C. H. Best and Dr. C. C. Lucas's review on "Choline: Chemistry and Significance as a Dietary Factor"; in 60 pages, closely packed with information and discussion, they open up the allied problems of fatty livers and transmethyations, nor do they neglect to indicate emphatically where judgment must be suspended and more experiments made. Of somewhat slighter calibre, though of no less authority, is H. H. Mitchell's review of the relationships between vitamins and amino-acids. Wald's discussion of the part that carotenoids (including vitamin A) play in the photoreceptor system is perhaps the most controversial in the book; it comes from an expert with whom other experts in the field are not in whole-hearted agreement. R. J. Williams speculates interestingly on the distribution of vitamins in various tissues and organs, while Richard P. Hall discusses the more circumscribed subject of growth factors for protozoa. Norman Jolliffe and Rita M. Most contribute a discussion on the appraisal of nutritional states, practical and topical. The review of the physiology of anti-pernicious-anaemic