and the cerebro-spinal fluid found to be under slightly increased pressure. Cytological and bacteriological examinations were carried out, with the following results:

There were 3,760 cells per cubic millimetre, of which 70 per cent. were polymorphonuclear leucocytes; colonies of pure *B. coli* were isolated, from which a vaccine was prepared. Urotropine, which had been administered from the outset in doses of 10 grains three times a day, was now increased to 20 grains every four hours.

For three days the temperature remained high, ranging from 101.2° to 103.2° F. But clinically the symptoms—more particularly the headaches—were greatly relieved by the lumbar puncture. The patient was never unconscious, though cerebation was markedly slow: beyond some venous engorgement there was no abnormality in the optic discs.

Autogenous vaccine was given on June 5th and June 7th, in doses of 12½ and 25 million. On June 8th the temperature fell in the morning to 98.2° F. for the first time. Since that date the improvement has been maintained without interruption, and the patient is now in every respect normal.

CONGENITAL HEREDITARY ABSENCE OF SOME OF THE DIGITAL PHALANXES.

BY

D. S. CLARKE, B.A., M.B., CH.B., R.U.I.,

RESIDENT HOUSE-SURGEON, BAGTHORPE MILITARY HOSPITAL; LATE SENIOR RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICER, BAGTHORPE INFIRMARY, NOTTINGHAM.

THE following observations are taken from a patient who was confined some weeks ago with her third child at the Bagthorpe Infirmary.

The abnormality affects both hands. There is an absence of the proximal and distal interphalangeal joints of the little and ring fingers, and of the distal interphalangeal joints of the index and middle fingers, as shown by the photograph taken of both hands. The tips of the affected fingers are rounded off, without any indication of a nail, excepting a minute vestige on the left index finger. The thumb of each hand is quite normal in appearance. The patient has no difficulty in performing the ordinary movements of the hands, but complains of inability to knit. The accompanying drawings from radiograms taken by myself illustrate the condition described below. The larger represents the mother's hands, the smaller those of her third child. As is seen, the middle and terminal phalanges are absent in both the little and ring fingers.

Fig. 1.—Drawing from radiogram of mother's hands.

In the index and middle fingers, the middle phalanx is seen to be absent, and not the terminal phalanx, as might be expected from the appearance of the hand. The patient states that her grandmother was similarly affected, as were also her mother, brother, uncle, and two cousins.

The genealogical table is as follows:

The abnormality seems to affect the first two born in each family, irrespective of the sex, and is present at birth.

Fig. 2.—Sketch of mother's hands.

In the case of the above patient her third child (boy), although not by the same father, was similarly affected, as is shown in the accompanying drawing (Fig. 3). In addition to the deformity of the hands there is a peculiar malformation of the child's penis. I cannot ascertain whether any deformity of the penis was present in any of the other male children. The prepuce is unusually long, but the frenum is imperfectly developed. The glans is quite normal, but the terminal opening of the urethra is not quite central, lying nearer the corona glandis than usual.

Fig. 3.—Drawing from radiogram of child's hand.

On efforts of the child at micturition the prepuce in its lower part becomes distended, almost exceeding in size a grape, and by compressing this distended portion the urine could be expelled in a fine stream, the ballooned portion thus acting as a reservoir.

A fine catheter, if directed forwards, could be made to enter the urethra, whilst if directed downwards and forwards it would be passed into the cul-de-sac above described, thus indicating that the floor of the urethra was incomplete in its terminal portion (partial hypospadias), although to all external appearances it looked quite normal.

In order to stimulate the invention of methods for using alcohol for commercial purposes the Russian Government has resolved to offer for international competition a series of prizes amounting altogether to £67,500. The highest prizes (four ranging from £7,500 to £2,000) will be given for devices to utilize alcohol for internal combustion engines. Other prizes, ranging from £6,000 to £500, will be given for methods of using alcohol for lighting, heating, and in the preparation of various materials useful in industry.

At the annual meeting of the American Medical Association, held in June at Rochester, Minnesota, it was decided that the next session should be held in Washington in 1916. Dr. Robert G. Leconte, of Philadelphia, was elected president.