suggests that a plaster jacket for the spine should be used in the earliest stages of poliomyelitis and that the position of extreme lordosis should be adopted. By this method he believes that the inflammatory processes in the spinal cord will be lessened in severity and in duration. It is obvious that the discomfort of this posture will be a hindrance to its routine adoption, especially on such a dubious theoretical basis. Further, by the adoption of such a posture, the muscles of the abdomen and chest may be unduly stretched, and, if affected by the disease process may be retarded in their recovery or even completely damaged.

E. A. C.


KUBIE’s method of draining the central nervous system consists of allowing the cerebrospinal fluid to drain away through a lumbar puncture needle, at the same time making the blood hypotonic by the oral administration of water.

Employing this method on sixteen patients with non-suppurative disease of the central nervous system the authors were able to demonstrate that human blood serum is rendered hypotonic and that this dilution of the blood is reflected in the cerebrospinal fluid.

The therapeutic results of this mode of treatment, particularly in cases of disseminated sclerosis, were sufficiently encouraging to warrant further study.

R. M. S.

**Endocrinology.**

[233] Myasthenia gravis with status lymphaticus and multiple thymic granulomas.—N. M. ALTER and M. OSNATO. *Arch. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, 1930, xxiii, 345.

In the case reported in this paper myasthenia gravis was associated with status lymphaticus and multiple abnormalities of branchiogenic organs. Two thymic nodules, one in relation to the thyroid and the other in the mediastinum, showed advanced inflammatory lesions; while a striking feature was the parenchymatous goitre with displacement and enlargement of parathyroid and thymic tissue.

Study of the central and peripheral nervous system revealed nothing of significance. The striated muscles showed extensive lymphoid infiltration and atrophy of the fibres.

R. M. S.


So far as can be judged from the descriptions and photographs, the case here published belongs definitely to the rare progeria type.
It is that of a girl of 7, with the following characteristic signs: baldness, large head, narrow chest, and protuberant abdomen; old facial expression; tense skin, with prominent veins; no hairs in either eyelids or eyebrows; thickened and tortuous peripheral arteries, with B.P. 104 systolic; muscular atrophy, thickened and prominent joints. In addition, there were many hard, shotty glands in both anterior and posterior cervical chains. Evidence of cardiac disease was present in the form of presystolic and systolic murmurs. Many other clinical details are recorded in the paper. The patient died rather unexpectedly from what seemed to be a coronary thrombosis. Regrettably, no necropsy was allowed.

J. S. P.

[235] The treatment of diabetes insipidus with pituitrin and vasopressin

After a careful study of the uses of pituitrin and vasopressin by the two routes, subcutaneous and intranasal, the authors reach the following conclusions: Pituitrin given as a snuff in diabetes insipidus is of value: administered in this way, larger doses are required than by the subcutaneous route: the snuff method is better than intranasal pledgets of wool soaked with pituitrin, because the application of the pledgets requires careful technique and they must be renewed every six hours; besides, the dose of pituitrin required is greater. Vasopressin subcutaneously is more effective than pituitrin; in powder form as a snuff it acts best.

E. A. C.

Psychopathology.


Twenty-three generations of rats have been trained to the performance of a specific task. The rats of the successive generations have displayed increasing facility in mastering this task. Whereas rats of the control stocks make on the average about 165 errors before learning to avoid the shock, rats of the twenty-third generation of trained stock make on the average only 25 errors; the latter have acquired a greatly increased facility in mastering the task, the increase being measured by the difference between 165 and 25 shocks required for learning. The average degree of facility shown by any group of rats is in the main a function of their genetic constitution. In the light of our present knowledge there would seem to be only two ways in which such change of constitution as is shown by the rats of the trained stock can be