

MEDICAL MATTERS.

MENINGISM.

An interesting paper on the above subject was read by Dr. A. E. Gow before the Abernethian Society and published in the April issue of the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal*, to the editor of which we are indebted for permission to publish the accompanying illustration. Dr. Gow said, in part:—

In 1894 Dupré, a French physician, introduced the word "meningism" to denote a condition very closely simulating meningitis, but in which no demonstrable lesion of the meninges occurs. Met with not infrequently in patients, especially children, who are suffering from a severe and acute toxæmia, the condition tends to rapid recovery when the toxæmia subsides. The lecturer continued:

Whether cases of meningeal irritation are becoming more frequent I am unable to say, but as a fair number of such cases have recently occurred in this Hospital, and as the subject has not hitherto been discussed by this Society, I have ventured to bring it before you to-night.

The more prominent symptoms in this group of cases are great restlessness, headache, retraction of the head, and a cry; and the diseases in the course of which it has been met with are pneumonia, epilepsy, Addison's disease, diphtheria, erysipelas, tuberculosis, constipation, epidemic diarrhoea, helminthiasis, and chorea. It occurs, therefore, under a large variety of conditions, all of which, so far as it is at present known, are due to micro-organisms or other agencies which liberate virulent toxins, and it is doubtless to these toxins that the symptoms are due.



CHILD ÆT 8, WITH MENINGISM IN PNEUMONIA, WHICH RECOVERED.

a very fatal, complication of pneumonia. Holt met with it twice in 170 autopsies. It may occur at the height of the fever or late in the disease. It may be quite latent, being only discovered in the *post-mortem* room, though nearly always it is ushered in by repeated attacks of vomiting, convulsions, a rapid rise of temperature, and

fortunately, a rare, though

The condition has been most marked, perhaps, in some of the cases of pneumonia, a disease which may be complicated by pneumococcus meningitis, and it is obvious that a correct diagnosis is of the utmost importance with regard to prognosis. Meningitis is, fortunately, a rare, though

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