

NOTES MADE ON EXAMINATION OF PATIENT ON ADMISSION TO HOSPITAL.

General Appearance.—Pale, well-nourished, and self-composed.

Temperature.—Normal.

Pulse.—Normal.

Respiration.—Slightly above the normal. Prolonged and sibilant expiration.

TREATMENT.

A. Medical.—Tablets of ephedrin gr. $\frac{1}{2}$ were given twice daily for the first week, and then the dose was increased to gr. 1 twice daily.

Adrenalin up to minims 6 were ordered to be given in the case of severe dyspnoea.

Linctus simplex with extract of liquorice was given to relieve the cough.

B. Surgical.—The patient was seen at weekly intervals by the ear, nose and throat surgeon of the Hospital. On his first visit he pierced the left maxillary antrum, and withdrew a quantity of pus. On his second visit he pierced the left maxillary antrum again and removed a large blood clot. A swab was also taken, which showed upon examination chronic catarrh of the left antrum. The antrum was pierced again on a later visit, but very little was removed.

One Month after Admission an intra-nasal antrostomy was performed under a general anæsthetic. A swab was taken of the antral discharge and a vaccine made therefrom. The asthmatic attacks still continued, but at lengthening intervals.

Two Weeks after Operation an injection of the vaccine was given. This was followed a few hours afterwards by a very bad attack of dyspnoea. Two injections of adrenalin minims 6 were given within 20 minutes, but without any relief. A general anæsthetic (ethyl chloride, followed by ether) was administered by the House Physician, and gave relief. The asthmatic attacks still continued, especially at night, but at lengthening intervals and to a milder degree.

A Week Later skin tests were made with the following foreign proteins:—

Left Leg.—1. Control. 2. Wheat. 3. Poultry feathers. 4. Betulaceæ group. 5. Sheep's wool. 6. Horse dandruff. 7. Tree pollen. 8. Flower pollen. 9. House dust. 10. Grass pollen.

Right Leg.—1. Plant group. 2. Graminaceæ group. 3. Milk group. 4. Egg group. 5. Leguminosæ group. 6. Fish. 7. Crab. 8. Dandruff. 9. Control.

Of these there was a reaction to:—Milk group+++. Leguminosæ group+. Fish+. Crab+. Flower pollen+.

Following these tests, weekly injections of milk minims 5, minims 8, minims 12, minims 15 were given. At the end of this course of injections the patient was de-sensitised to milk and her milkless diet was replaced by a ketogenic diet.

MODIFIED KETOGENIC DIET.

Breakfast.

Fried bacon, 3 oz.	Milk, 1 oz.
Bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Cream, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Tea, <i>ad libitum</i> .

Lunch.—Milk, 5 oz.*Dinner.*

Meat, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Milk, 4 oz.
Potato, 1 oz., mashed with butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	1 orange or apple, 3 oz.
Greens or salad, <i>ad libitum</i> .	

Tea.

Bread or toast, 1 oz.	Milk, 1 oz.
Butter, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	Salads, <i>ad libitum</i> .
Cream, 1 oz.	

6 p.m.—Milk, 4 oz.

Simultaneously with the milk injections, the vaccine injections were continued. Eight vaccine injections were given in all, after the primary injection of 5,000 micro-organisms, which was followed by the very severe attack of dyspnoea. The second vaccine injection was 500 micro-organisms, and the dose was gradually increased to 3,500 micro-organisms in the last injection. The whole series of injections was spread over a period of eight weeks. The asthmatic attacks gradually decreased in intensity, and the periods between the attacks increased.

January 31st, 1936.—No injection of adrenalin has been necessary for the past three weeks. The attacks now being of a milder type which can be controlled by drinks of tea or orangeade.

SPECIAL NURSING POINTS.

Apart from the usual treatment following an antrostomy, there has been little need of ordinary nursing care. The patient has been up and able to look after herself, except for the few days following the operation. Psychological treatment has, however, played a considerable part in her treatment. Promptness in the administration of a warm linctus for her cough, and hot drinks for her dyspnoeic attacks has probably done more good than the actual drinks themselves, by reassuring the patient, and giving her the feeling that she was being helped by the nurse.

Diet.—Throughout her stay in hospital the patient has been on practically full diet, although she has not taken much meat. During the course of the milk injections she was forbidden milk in any form. After the completion of this course she was placed on the specially modified ketogenic diet for the remainder of her time in hospital.

DRUGS GIVEN TO THIS PATIENT.

Adrenalin minims 6, administered hypodermically for the relief of dyspnoea.

Ephedrine gr. 1, given twice daily. Pseudo-ephedrine has been given for the last two weeks.

Benzyl benzoate capsules were given during dyspnoeic attacks with practically no effect.

Mixture of tinct. Lobelia minims 15 and potassium iodide et stramonium 1 oz., three times daily.

Other drugs which may be ordered for asthma are atropine and hyocyamus.

GENERAL NOTES.

Asthma is a bronchial spasm, of which there are many types:

1. Primary. 2. Cardiac. 3. Nephritic. 4. Irritation of bronchi—(a) Tubercular; (b) Aneurysm; (c) New growth. 5. Hysterical.

Causes.—1. Family tendency. 2. Predisposing causes—(a) Age; (b) Highly-strung nature; (c) Over-tiredness, exertion or emotion. 3. Sensitivity to foreign proteins—(a) Inhaled; (b) Ingested. Animal or vegetable proteins.

Symptoms.—1. Wheezing. 2. Nocturnal cough. 3. Tightness in chest.

An unusual case of blindness caused by permanently closed eyelids, the eyeballs being normal, has been cured by a new kind of grafting operation at the Royal Waterloo Hospital, London.

The patient, a five-year-old boy, is now able to see like any normal child, but till admitted to the hospital he had never been able to open his eyes since birth. The necessary muscles were missing.

Surgeons at the Royal Waterloo remedied the defect by grafting into the eyelids pieces of muscle taken from the boy's thighs.

When the bandages were removed, the lids were found to open and shut in a perfectly natural manner. Also, the eyeballs moved with the opening and shutting of the lids in the usual way.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)