Systemic penicillin was accordingly discontinued, but the next day the temperature rose to 99° F., and it was therefore recommenced. The joint swellings had become less, the left more so than the right, and on July 23 penicillin was discontinued. A total of 106,000 units of penicillin had been given intramuscularly over fourteen days, with 1,000 units into the right joint, and 3,000 units in all into the left joint, thus making a grand total of 110,000 units.

The administration of sulphadiazine was stopped two days later (July 25), the total dosage being 11·75 g.

On discharge (July 28) the umbilicus was quite clean, and only slight swelling of both sternoclavicular joints remained. The leucocyte count had fallen to 15,100 per c.mm. per cent. blood, with 41 per cent. polymorphs. Whilst in hospital the child, who had never appeared very ill, had made a steady gain in weight of 1 lb. 5 oz. during the 18 days.

When the child was seen a month after discharge, the left sternoclavicular joint showed some deformity, and a radiograph revealed rarefaction of the inner end of the left clavicle with some derangement of the left sternoclavicular joint. Apart from this the general condition of the child was excellent.

The child was next seen when it was nine months old. Her weight was 19 lb. 10 oz., and she looked extremely well. There was no apparent deformity of either sternoclavicular joint, and movement at both joints seemed satisfactory. A radiograph, however, revealed that both joints were probably dislocated, and there was some consolidated widening at the inner ends of both clavicles. There was no evidence of bony destruction.

Conclusion

From this case it appears that Bacillus proteus infections in infancy, especially if localized, may be treated with full doses of sulphadiazine and penicillin with some hope of success. The non-irritability of the latter makes it suitable for local administration in high dosage. This in itself is probably as important as the rest of the treatment.

Summary

A case of Proteus vulgaris infection of both sternoclavicular joints has been described.

The infection appeared secondary to that of the umbilicus.

Such cases are rare and usually fatal. The successful use of sulphadiazine with local and systemic penicillin is described.

I am indebted to Dr. Bernard Schlesinger for his help and permission to publish this case, to Dr. I. A. B. Cathie for advice on the bacteriological aspect, and to Dr. G. M. Donaldson for assistance on the ward.

REFERENCES

Topley, and Wilson, (1946). Principles of Bacteriology and Immunity. 3rd Ed. pp. 642-651; 1501; and 1586.

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In his preface, the author stresses his approach to the clinical aspects of pulmonary disease in childhood through morphological study of the respiratory system, and the need for three-dimensional methods in appreciating bronchial and lung structure. Much work has already been done along these lines, and unfortunately Part I of this book (which deals with the bronchial tree and bronchial glands) loses much of its value since most of the specimens from which the author obtained his data were Wood’s metal casts, which lead to distortion of the bronchi. The best section in this part is that dealing with the bronchiolar wall. Chapter 18 (‘The Elements of the Lung-Tissue’) gives a fair representation of the views held today, with perhaps the exception of the author’s criticisms of Baltisberger on p. 229. It is curious that, whilst many people have failed to confirm Baltisberger’s findings, there are some who have succeeded in demonstrating in normal healthy animal lungs, chiefly dog, muscle network around the alveolar duct. It is possible that there is a species difference, and also a particular technique necessary for their demonstration. Chapter 19 (‘The Blood Supply of the Lung-Tissue’) consists of one page only, and does not even mention the bronchial vascular system, which supplies all the lung tissues with the exception of the portion of the respiratory tree distal to the respiratory bronchioles.

Whilst there is clearly a place for an authoritative work on the field with which the author has dealt, it must be admitted that this particular volume is not entirely adequate. The present high cost of book production perhaps tends to sharpen criticism of the matter published, but where certain aspects of the subject (for example the pathology included in Part I) have been equally well dealt with by other
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More information might usefully have been given about paediatric procedures in which she may be required to assist, about the diet and appetite of the sick child, his convalescence and rehabilitation, and the effects of homesickness on the child in hospital, and less about the RhEus factor and haemoglobin levels. It is doubtful how much it will benefit the nurse to be taught that the serum calcium is reduced in rickets (even if this were generally true), but much heart-burning might be saved if it were pointed out that when collecting urine from a male infant the test-tube should not be placed in the erect position. Whilst the book is good of its kind, and is likely to be widely read, it is less certain that the kind is really that most suitable for nurses.

The 1947 Year Book of Pediatrics. Edited by ISAAC A. ABT, D.Sc., M.D., Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Medical School; with the collaboration of Arthur F. Abt, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Northwestern University Medical School, 1947. Chicago: The Year Book Publishers Inc. Pp. 454. (Price 21s.)

This volume is dedicated by the publishers to Dr. Isaac Abt, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. It is prefaced by appreciations written by Drs. Julius Hess, A. A. Wееch, and E. F. Ellis, and it is appropriate that a yearbook which Dr. Abt has himself edited for forty-six years should serve as his Festschrift. Congratulations on a life of remarkable achievement will be extended to Dr. Abt by paediatricians throughout the world.


Approximately seventy illustrative case histories have been added, and a section based on the authors’ ‘Embryology of Behaviour’ included. The last chapter, which is also new, deals with developmental paediatrics.


A new edition of this well-known work is welcome, since there have been many advances in the science of nutrition since the last was published. Opportunity has been taken for complete revision of the text, and a number of illustrations have been added. Approximately half the book is devoted to the physiology of infant nutrition and normal

authors, it is felt that the presentation could be improved in subsequent editions, and a number of sections usefully expanded or clarified.


In lecturing to a lay audience, Professor Capon has been wise in getting back to facts and avoiding unsupported theory concerning the health of the individual child. Whilst much of his material will necessarily be familiar to paediatricians, his presentation is fresh and stimulating, and the whole book can be read with profit and interest. Indeed, it is surprising how much he has managed to compress into small compass without overburdening his pages with statistics. Where these are used, for example, in emphasizing the increasing importance of street accidents as a cause of death in childhood, they are used clearly and effectively. His final discussion on the attainment of optimum health is excellent.


The training of nurses in the care of the sick child is of such outstanding importance that every part of it deserves to come under critical scrutiny. Before writing a textbook for nurses’ use, the paediatrician will naturally ask himself what he would like the fully trained nurse to know, and not solely what is included in her syllabus. He will realize that with the limited time which can be devoted to theoretical work, essentials must be emphasized and non-essentials reduced to a minimum or omitted altogether. He may well remember being asked to cover the whole field of paediatrics in two lectures to nurses undergoing their general training. Dr. Watkins’ book will, therefore, be read with interest by those in any way concerned with the teaching of nurses.

What the author has, in fact, produced is a short, readable little book dealing with disease in childhood along orthodox lines. This in itself is no mean achievement, since the book is written clearly and concisely throughout, but it is something of a disappointment to find so little attention paid to the practical problems with which the nurse is likely to be faced or to the behaviour of the child when sick. Whilst the nurse must obviously know something of the diseases with which she will come in contact, there seems little object in training her to be a somewhat inferior doctor.