Periscope

A CASE OF MICROCEPHALY FOLLOWING EMBRYONIC ROENTGEN IRRADIATION.

A woman, aged 33 years, was treated with Roentgen therapy for a "uterine myoma with metrorrhagia"; the hæmorrhage previously lasted ten days and nearly exsanguinated the patient. The uterus was somewhat enlarged and was thought to contain a small myoma in the right wall. The patient was not thought to be pregnant and the uterus was not explored. Four treatments were given at weekly intervals, the bleeding stopped and the patient immediately began to improve.

About one month after the last Roentgen exposure, fetal movements were felt, and a small male child was born apparently at term, weighing 3 lbs. 11 ozs. Labour was precipitous. The child's head was noticed to be extremely small. According to the dates given, the embryo received its first irradiation after two and a half months of intra-uterine life, and the last treatment one month later.

The mother had three children previous to this, of normal size and development. The first died in thirteen hours supposedly from heart failure, the second and third were of superior intelligence and sound physique. One child was born two years after the birth of the one irradiated *in utero* and was normal both mentally and physically. There was no history of any mental taint or hereditary physical abnormality among the ancestors on either side.

The fact that, in a healthy family, a mentally defective child of the microcephalic type was born following irradiation in the early months of intra-uterine life would seem to support the belief that the arrested mental development was the result of the irradiation. This would suggest that in every case where the uterus is to be irradiated, curetting should be carried out, especially as carcinoma of the fundus is not infrequently associated with submucous myomata, one of the common indications for uterine irradiation in women of the child-bearing age.

At the subsequent discussion a case was reported of a microcephalic child, now six years old, whose mother was also irradiated for a benign tumour during the pregnancy. Three other brothers, all born earlier, were normal.

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POST-VACCINATION ENCEPHALITIS.

Three views have been put forward to explain the occurrence of encephalitis following vaccination.

(1) Some observers believe that neither the vaccine nor the virus of ordinary lethargic encephalitis have any direct bearing on the