

it is this variety that will be dwelt upon. By no means seldom, patients having an excess of mucus in the conjunctival sac, due to an inflammation of the conjunctiva, and very likely of the tear passage, complain at times of diplopia on looking at objects near to, as in reading. The same annoyance is sometimes produced by pterygium, irregularity in the curvature of the cornea after a wound, coloboma of the iris (a congenital slit, due to arrest of development), luxation of the lens, and congenital irregular astigmatism. It has been frequently observed by oculists in incipient senile cataract.

In my notes, taken in the last three or four years, of the examinations of ninety-two patients having ordinary incipient cataract, the following abnormalities are recorded: diplopia, nineteen; myopia, four; polyopia, two; irregular astigmatism, five. Males, ten; females, twenty. Of the thirty persons who noticed refractive defects, twenty-five were private patients, while but five of the thirty cataract patients seen at the Salem Hospital had remarked anything abnormal. This was possibly due to a want of observation on their part, and the same reason may have accounted for the small number of males who reported visual troubles. The writer is aware that these few examples are insufficient for any statistical value, but their publication may tend somewhat to allay alarm at the presence of diplopia (as in seeing "two moons") in a person who has previously enjoyed both health and sight.

A word as to the cause of this form of double sight. It is well known, at least among specialists, that in the beginning of senile cataract the affected eye may become myopic by the alteration in the curvature of the lens, brought about, perhaps, by a swelling of its substance, owing to some defect in exosmosis through the capsule. (This state of refraction is sometimes so marked that — as has occurred in two of my patients — a very considerable degree of help to vision is found by wearing concave glasses.)

So, too, diplopia, polyopia, irregular astigmatism, etc., are doubtless occasioned by an irregular swelling or imbibition of certain sectors of the lens. That it is monocular, and is not dependent on any central trouble, is found by alternately closing first one eye and then the other. In binocular diplopia vision becomes single on closing either eye, while in monocular diplopia the vision is single only when the affected eye is covered.

SALEM, MASS.

DAVID COGGIN, M. D.

PSEUDO-HYPERTROPHIC PARALYSIS.

MR. EDITOR, — In Bath, Grafton County, is a case of pseudo-hypertrophic paralysis in a male aged fourteen years. The muscles of the thighs are affected. The disease has been in progress three years, and there is now complete paralysis of all the muscles of the legs. No similar affection in the family, near or remote. The boy often "went swimming," and had a severe contusion upon the lower spine some time before the symptoms of paralysis appeared. Treatment by massage and electricity has been without good result. These cases are so rare that I have thought it worth reporting. The case has been seen and diagnosed by Dr. Tuttle, of Littleton, N. H.

WILLIAM CHILD, M. D.

YELLOW FEVER.

MR. EDITOR, — I was mistaken about the date of the attack of Louisa Creel by yellow fever at Mississippi City. It should be July 6th instead of July 13th.

No case has sickened here since July 29th. Our dread is rather of inland quarantines than an epidemic.

S. S. HERRICK.

NEW ORLEANS, August 8, 1879.

AMNIOTIC FLUID.

MR. EDITOR, — I notice in this week's number of your JOURNAL the report of a case by Dr. Wakefield where there was entire absence of amniotic fluid. The case I think well worthy of note, and I would like to see more of such letters from the profession when finding such abnormalities. In a practice of twelve years I have never met with anything of this kind till the present summer, the principal points of which I will give. The first case occurred July 3, 1879. Mrs. B., a primipara, aged thirty-nine and a half years, after a labor

lasting only seven hours, gave birth to a female child (eight pounds). Mother and child did well. The second case, July 8th, was a primipara. Mrs. R., aged twenty years, small, but very fleshy, after a labor lasting ten and a half hours, gave birth to a male child (twelve pounds). Ether was given in both cases, and forceps used in the latter. There could be no mistake about the above cases, as I was present from the ushering in of the first symptoms, and constantly by them during the labors. Yours respectfully,

FREEMPORT, ME., August 9, 1879.

JOHN G. PIERCE.

REPORTED MORTALITY FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 9, 1879.

Cities.	Popula- tion estimated for July, 1879.	Reported Deaths in each.	Annual Death-Rate per 1000 during the Week.	Percentage of total Deaths from				
				The Princ- pal ¹ / ₂ Zymo- tic ² / ₃ Diseases.	Diarrheal Diseases.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Pneumo- nia.	Scarlet Fe- ver.
New York.....	1,085,000	710	34.12	38.87	33.52	1.97	3.88	.85
Philadelphia.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brooklyn.....	564,400	265	24.48	39.25	30.57	3.40	2.64	.38
Chicago.....	—	199	—	41.21	27.64	5.63	3.02	1.61
St. Louis.....	—	140	—	37.71	22.14	.71	.71	—
Baltimore.....	365,000	164	23.43	31.10	17.07	2.44	.61	4.88
Boston.....	350,000	222	32.08	54.95	47.30	2.25	2.25	1.82
Cincinnati.....	280,000	105	19.55	33.33	21.90	1.90	1.90	7.60
New Orleans.....	210,000	84	20.88	23.81	13.10	1.19	1.19	—
District of Columbia...	160,000	83	27.05	31.33	25.30	—	4.82	1.21
Cleveland.....	—	78	—	46.15	39.74	—	—	1.20
Pittsburgh.....	—	61	—	47.54	31.15	6.56	4.92	—
Buffalo.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milwaukee.....	—	61	—	49.18	49.18	—	—	—
Providence.....	101,500	51	26.20	45.10	35.80	1.96	5.88	3.92
New Haven.....	60,000	29	25.20	24.14	17.24	3.45	3.45	—
Charleston.....	57,000	25	22.87	16.00	8.00	4.00	—	—
Nashville.....	27,000	11	21.24	54.55	38.86	—	—	—
Lowell.....	53,800	29	23.36	43.28	48.28	—	—	—
Worcester.....	52,500	22	21.35	27.27	13.64	4.55	—	—
Cambridge.....	50,000	30	31.29	40.00	40.00	—	—	—
Fall River.....	48,500	26	27.95	30.77	26.92	—	—	3.85
Lawrence.....	38,200	27	36.85	51.85	25.92	—	—	—
Lynn.....	34,000	13	19.94	88.46	88.46	—	—	—
Springfield.....	31,500	12	19.85	66.67	60.00	16.67	—	—
New Bedford.....	27,000	24	46.34	53.98	50.00	4.17	—	—
Salem.....	26,400	16	31.60	37.50	31.25	—	—	—
Somerville.....	23,850	13	29.03	84.02	76.92	—	7.69	—
Chelsea.....	20,800	8	20.06	12.50	12.50	—	—	—
Taunton.....	20,200	7	18.07	42.86	42.86	—	—	—
Holyoke.....	18,200	13	37.25	61.64	23.08	7.69	—	7.69
Gloucester.....	17,100	5	15.25	40.00	40.00	—	—	—
Newton.....	17,100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haverhill.....	15,300	8	27.26	25.00	25.00	—	—	—
Newburyport.....	13,500	5	19.31	20.00	20.00	—	—	—
Fitchburg.....	12,500	3	12.51	66.67	33.33	—	—	—

Two thousand five hundred and forty-nine deaths were reported (previous week 2437) : 1018 from the principal infectious diseases, 796 from diarrheal diseases, 233 from consumption, 62 from diphtheria and croup, 60 from pneumonia, 37 from whooping-cough, 36 from scarlet fever, 36 from typhoid fever, 29 from bronchitis, 22 from malarial fevers, 13 from cerebro-spinal meningitis, nine from measles, five from erysipelas, one from small-pox (New York). From *whooping-cough* Brooklyn reported 10 deaths, Boston and Pittsburgh five, New York, St. Louis, and Baltimore three, Cleveland two, Cincinnati, Providence, Lawrence, Salem, Holyoke, and Fitchburg one. From *typhoid fever*, Chicago seven, St. Louis six, New York five, Baltimore four, Boston and District of Columbia three, Lawrence two, Brooklyn, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Providence, and Holyoke one. From *malarial fevers*, New Orleans eight, St. Louis five, Chicago three, Nashville two, Baltimore, District of Columbia, New Haven, and Charleston one. From *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, New York three, Baltimore and Worcester two, St. Louis, Cleveland, Springfield, New Bedford, Somerville, and Holyoke one. From *measles*, New York five, St. Louis two, Brooklyn and Baltimore one. The cases of yellow fever increased very much in Memphis; one death was