

PERISCOPE

INTRACRANIAL TUMOURS AMONG MENTAL HOSPITAL PATIENTS, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE TUMOURS OF THE GLIOMA SERIES.

The incidence of brain tumours among mental patients is no greater than among patients in general hospitals, *i.e.* from 0.21 to 1.9 per cent. Of the 75 cases here examined 48 per cent. were gliomas and 30.6 per cent. meningiomas. There is no pure type of glioma in the literal sense; 66 per cent. of the gliomas belonged to the group of spongioblastoma multiforme. This is an extremely rapidly growing tumour, giving rise to acute mental symptoms. The average duration of life from the onset of symptoms was only 9.1 months. It presents great variability in its structure; 16 per cent. were astrocytomas. Here the average survival period was three and a half years. In 14 per cent. of the series it was found that a combined form of glioma, consisting of two fundamentally different types of growth in the same tumour, was present. The authors studied the entire tumour in every case in serial sections and think that if this were more widely done an even greater number of combined forms would be discovered. One tumour was presumably formed almost entirely by oligodendraglia. It is thus clear that brain tumour may be eliminated from an important place among the causative agents of mental disease.

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CLINICAL PHENOMENA ASSOCIATED WITH DEPRESSIONS, ANXIETIES, AND OTHER AFFECTIVE OR MOOD DISORDERS.

This paper is based on observations from the Section of Neurology of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, U.S.A. Normal health, joy, and happiness come from satisfying experiences with environment. Grief is associated with thwarting and unpleasant events. It is a prevalent idea that emotions result from some stimulus of external origin, and that catastrophe and misfortune are necessary to cause distress. But in some persons, sadness, anxiety, depression, elation, and feelings of extreme well-being seem to be of endogenous origin. Such a person, experiencing a distressing emotional state, and finding no external cause for it, commences to hunt for a diseased organ. An analysis of 112 cases is given here, with case histories of 20. Such cases present no difficulty