

Letters to the Editor

Argyria. HUGH K. BERKLEY. (*Jour. A.M.A.*, January 20th, 1934.)

The author reports two cases of argyria. The first patient, a girl aged 10, had used neosilvol drops in the nose two or three times a day for two years. There was no history of other medication. The uncovered portion of the skin became a dusky slate colour, more accentuated under the eyes and about the lips and nose. The sclerae showed a very definite slate colour. The second patient, a girl aged 7, used a 15 per cent. solution of neosilvol constantly for a period of two years and occasionally for a period of four years. The uncovered portions of her skin, especially under the eyes and at the side of the nose, developed a marked bluish discoloration. Both patients complained of anorexia, nausea, and nervousness. These cases were seen by a number of physicians who claimed that the diagnosis of under-nutrition and argyria was undisputed. The writer mentions a similar case, reported by Royster in 1932, and three cases reported by Woodward in 1933, and feels that six cases of argyria occurring in widely separated localities in less than one year should lead physicians to exercise more care in the prolonged use of colloidal silver preparations and to warn their patients against their continuous use.

ANGUS A. CAMPBELL.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—As a curious and interesting coincidence, the following may be worth relating. I have just read in "Abstracts" (page 480 of your July number) the following: "Complete bilateral nerve deafness following fracture of the base of the skull is a rare event. The case reported here was that of a youth, 19 years of age, who received a blow on the forehead which rendered him unconscious for ten days."

About an hour previous to reading this a man of 59 years of age was brought to me by his sister on account of deafness. He was stone deaf in each ear. He could feel vibrations of the tuning fork C.32 on his skull bones, and could feel vibrations, as from stamping on the floor. He had a very slight spontaneous nystagmus on turning his eyes in any direction. I did not do a caloric test, but a rotation test produced no results from turning in either direction.

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The history given by his sister was that forty years ago, that is at 19 years of age, he fell on to his head from a swing, was unconscious for a prolonged period, and was in the Brisbane Hospital for seven weeks and has been stone deaf ever since, though previously his hearing was normal.

Both tympanic membranes are now normal in appearance.

Yours truly,
ERNEST CULPIN.

Ballow Chambers,
Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.
August 16th, 1934.

TO THE EDITOR,

The Journal of Laryngology and Otology.

SIR,—I am indebted to Doctors Hugh G. Garland and George Armitage for their letter to you upon my article "Tuberculoma of the Brain Associated with Ear Disease" (*Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, 1934, xlix., 8, 493), which you published in the September number of this Journal.

The information about their four patients is very valuable and of great interest.

With regard to the errors in my paper, I wish to state that "536" cases of tuberculous meningitis is a printer's error. The corrected number should read "356" (Table I of their article). I regret that I had misread their paper with regard to the twenty-five per cent. of tuberculoma which showed intra-cranial symptoms. After careful perusal of this passage, I am in complete agreement with them. Lastly, the seventy-five per cent. figure, of course, refers to all cases of intra-cranial tuberculoma.

Unfortunately, this last small paragraph had been run together with the preceding one and, therefore, quite changes the meaning of this passage.

I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,
J. P. STEWART.