CASE NOTES

COENURUS CYST OF THE EYE*

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PARASITIZATION of the human eye by the "gid" worm (genus *Multiceps*) does not appear to have been recorded hitherto. The following two cases are therefore reported.

Case Reports

Case 1, a male Ankole native of Uganda, aged 21, attended in January, 1954, complaining that his left eye had been painful for one week. There was ciliary injection, profuse fine precipitates, and a marked aqueous flare. The pupil was small, active, and regular. Atropine was instilled, but when his turn for fundoscopy arrived the patient had disappeared. He was next seen in November, 1954, complaining of headache and pain in the left eye, which was blind except for a small nasal field. Macroscopically a yellow reflex was visible towards the nasal side. The pupil dilated widely with atropine revealing a few slender attenuated posterior synechiae. A large cyst could be seen in the vitreous mostly in the nasal half. Three white patches near its surface were recognized as scolices by a definite though very sluggish motility. The eye was removed 2 weeks later at the patient's request because of pain. Fig. 1 shows the bisected globe hinged at the optic disc

FIG. 1.—Bisected globe from Case 1.

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(the cornea had been removed for keratoplasty on another case).

Pathological Report.—"On sagittal section the eye was found to be completely disorganized, more than half the globe being occupied by a cyst which consisted of three widely-communicating loculi, on the walls of which were 26 scolices, all well formed with thirty hooklets each, ranging in length from 88 to 148.8 μ ."

Case 2, a female Ruanda baby, one year old, presented with a large cyst beneath the bulbar conjunctiva of the right eye on the temporal side. The globe was markedly displaced towards the nose. The mother insisted that the swelling was of 3 weeks' duration only. At operation, after a conjunctival incision the cyst just "oozed" out of its bed; no dissection was necessary and there seemed to be no connecting tissue strands between it and its bed. It was a flabby ovoid structure with many white nodules showing through a very thin wall.

Pathological Report.—"After fixation in formol saline the cyst was of long ovoid shape, 18 $\times$ 7 $\times$ 7 mm. (Fig. 2). Groups of scolices were visible through the delicate wall and were found to be in groups, each roughly linear. 162 scolices were counted. Each scolex contained 28 hooklets (Fig. 3), all well formed and ranging in length from 107 to 149 μ . This is a coenurus cyst, of which only one species, *C. cerebralis* (from *M. muliceps*) is now regarded as parasitizing man."

FIG. 2.—Cyst from Case 2.

FIG. 3.—Drawing of hooklets in cyst from Case 2.

Discussion

The adult *M. multiceps* is a common parasite of dogs. Its ova, passed in the faeces, are ingested by sheep and develop as coenurus cysts in the central nervous system, giving rise to the syndrome of "blind staggers". The life cycle is completed when dogs eat the brains of infected sheep. It is surprising that the close association between man and dog does not more often lead to human parasitization, yet recorded instances in the literature total only sixteen, none affecting the eye (Raper, 1955). An informative account of the condition is given by Johnstone and Jones (1950) with thirteen references to the literature.

Summary

Two cases of coenurus cyst of the eye are recorded.

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