CASE NOTES

PALPEBRAL NEURILEMMOMA*

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NEURILEMMOMA, which is supposed to be a benign growth of the sheath of Schwann—hence the other name Schwannoma—is uncommon in the lid. It occurs at all ages and in both sexes. Unlike neurofibroma it is localized, usually solitary, and often encapsulated. It seldom becomes malignant. Treatment is by excision. Recurrence is rare.

The tumour shows three distinct though not always sharply separable structural patterns. Fasciculated ("Type A") tissue showing a regimented cellular pattern of cells is the most characteristic. Reticular ("Type B") tissue, often present with the former, shows an irregular loose network of cells interspersed with intercellular vacuoles. The epithelioid type of structure ("Type C") is seen only rarely.

Case Report

A male Hindu aged 18 years, attended hospital on April 23, 1957, with a mass in the medial third of the right upper lid near the margin which had been growing slowly for about the past 3 years.

Examination.—A round, firm subcutaneous growth 1 cm. in diameter was noted. It looked like a granuloma from the meibomian gland.

FIGURE.—Palpebral neurilemmoma, showing palisaded arrangement of tumour cells. Haematoxylin and eosin. $\times 175$.

Treatment.—Under local anaesthesia the skin over the growth was incised. The growth, which was attached to the tarsal plate, was excised with a piece of the plate. The wound was stitched up, and recovery was uneventful.

Comment.—The growth was a smooth, encapsulated, round mass measuring 8 mm. in diameter. Histological examination showed an admixture of "Type A" and "Type B" tissue. The regimented pattern of cells with alternating fibrous and nuclear zones, comparable to the Wagner-Meissner tactile corpuscle, was very distinctive (Figure).

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