

BRIEF REPORTS

The purpose of this department is to facilitate the reporting of interesting cases and observations that otherwise might not be recorded.

TUBERCULOID CHANGES IN LYMPH NODES IN LEPROSY

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A few months ago I undertook, at the suggestion of Dr. H. W. Wade, a small investigation into the possible occurrence of pathological changes of tuberculoid nature in the lymph nodes of patients showing the tuberculoid variety of leprous lesion in the skin, cutaneous nerves and nerve trunks. The presence of such changes in lymph nodes has been claimed by Rabello, Jr., who uses this finding in support of his argument that leprosy is one of the causes of the Besnier-Boeck "sarcoid" disease. Regarding this latter view of Rabello, Jr. I can say nothing here, but I can report ample confirmation of his assertion that tuberculoid changes occur in the lymph nodes of some cases of tuberculoid leprosy.

Palpably enlarged lymph nodes have been excised from thirteen cases of leprosy which appeared to be clinically of tuberculoid nature. Two of them proved not to be tuberculoid, as sections of both skin and lymph nodes showed definite evidence of lepromatous changes. In the remaining eleven the lymph nodes showed changes which are summarized in Table 1.

From the table it is seen that of eleven lymph nodes excised, six showed clear evidence of tuberculoid change in the form of very definite focal accumulations of epithelioid cells, sometimes with Langhan's giant cells. Bacilli were found in only one of the sections, and they were few. In the other five lymph nodes that were examined there were definite lesions consisting of foci of epithelioid cells, but in the absence of the typical "tuberculoid" arrangement, and of cells of the Langhan's type, these sections have not been recorded as showing definite tuberculoid change.