DISEASES OF THE EYE.

Result of Uni- or Bilateral Ligature of the Common Carotid in Two Cases of Traumatic Exophthalmos. By F. de Lapersonne and Sendral (Arch. d’Ophtal, January, 1920).—These authors have reported two cases of traumatic exophthalmos, which have been successfully treated by ligature, in one case of one, and in the other of both common carotids (carotide primitive). They state that the attempts on the internal carotid are without effect, and that such operations are liable to cerebral and ocular accidents, immediate or later, and that these accidents are graver than those following the ligature of the common carotid.

The first patient was a captain, 37 years of age, who had received several wounds on the head on 1st December, 1917, and lay for twenty hours in coma in the hospital of Belfort. After being in different hospitals he was sent to Paris two months later with a diagnosis of fracture of the base. The exophthalmos began suddenly forty-five days after the wound.

On 15th February, 1918, there occurred a sudden detachment of the left retina with subluxation of the lens, and increased exophthalmos of the right eye. The left eye became completely blind from separation of the retina and secondary cataract.

The patient was kept under continuous observation, and by September, 1918, there was a non-pulsatile stationary exophthalmos, with slight chemosis.

In November, 1918, the sella turcica was found to be enlarged. By March, 1919, the patient began to complain of subjective troubles, a bruit being heard in different parts of the head, it being greater when he compressed his left ear. There was no sign of pulsation in the exophthalmos or of thrill in the left superior internal angle of the orbit.

By October, 1919, the exophthalmos had become much greater, and there was a greater chemosis of the conjunctiva around the cornea. The sclera was exposed for a range of 3 mm. beyond the lid margin, and it was not possible to close the lids. A systolic murmur could be perceived by auscultation in different parts of the head, which disappeared completely on pressure of the common carotid on the same side. The heart and vessels were normal.

On 30th October Martel, a surgeon, ligatured the common carotid of the left side, under ether anaesthesia. Before the ligature was tied, the artery was raised on a Deschamp’s needle, and as there was no effect on the circulation or respiration, the ligature was tied.

The following day the patient was able to get up, and on the fifth day he left the hospital. The eye went back into place, and there has been no recurrence.

The second case was a soldier of 36 years, who was brought to hospital in June, 1917, suffering from fracture of the cranium, received in a train accident. He lay in coma for three hours. Forty-eight hours after this slight exophthalmos developed in the left eye, and on 23rd June it was noticed in the right eye, and this had become fully developed by 8th August.

The question arose as to which was the carotid involved; the appearance of exophthalmos in the left side, two days after the traumatism, and the hemorrhage from the ear on that side incriminated the left carotid, although the symptoms were still more manifest on the right side.
On the sudden appearance of neuro-paralytic keratitis in both eyes and hypopyon in the right eye, with accentuated optic neuritis and intolerable bruits, a decision was made to ligature the right common carotid.

On 6th September Chutro, a surgeon, ligatured the right common carotid, without any noticeable effect. In a few weeks the thrill disappeared, and there was a diminution of the murmurs, but the patient still complained of the bruit, which had not been influenced by the operation.

In face of this it was decided to ligature the left common carotid, but the operation was postponed for several weeks in order to prepare the patient; this was done by rendering the arteries supple, and by regular digital compression of the carotid, until the patient was able to stand this compression for a period of ten minutes at a time.

On 14th February, 1918, five months after the ligature of the right common carotid, and under an ether anaesthetic, Chutro ligatured the left common carotid, after testing the effect of compression of the artery on respiration and circulation.

On coming out of the anaesthesia the patient complained of a feeling of ice in his head, which lasted for three days. He noticed a diminution of the bruit. In April, 1918, he left the hospital very satisfied with his condition. In 1919 he wrote saying that his sight was very good, and that the bruit now troubled him very little, if at all.

The authors point out that in the first case the development was slow, and for a long time the diagnosis was doubtful; it was only after many months that the exophthalmos suddenly increased greatly. The result of the operation was perfect, and the patient had no cerebral trouble after it. An important fact is that the vision of the right eye (the vision of the left had been lost through the detachment of the retina) was retained, and the retinal and sub-conjunctival veins gradually diminished in volume.

The second case was much more striking, being one of double exophthalmos with aneurism, nerve paralysis, and many complications. Ligature of the right common carotid had no effect in diminishing the bruit from which this patient was suffering so much, and it was only after ligature of the left common carotid, done after a series of digital compressions, that the bruit was abated.

—W. B. Inglis Pollock.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Vaccine-Therapy in Skin Diseases—Four leading dermatologists give their views on this subject in the British Journal of Dermatology and Syphilis (April-June, 1919). Adamson finds the vaccine treatment of pustular acne, chronic sycoisis, furunculosis, and staphylococcal impetigo "distinctly disappointing," and is "unable to relate a single case of this sort which has been cured, or of which he could say that it has been definitely improved by the treatment." In the treatment of lupus vulgaris by tuberculin he has been "altogether unfortunate." Whitfield claims some successes, mainly in cases of a kind which are generally easy to cure, but which for some reason have proved