A CASE OF CONGENITAL, ZONULAR, GRAYISH-WHITE OPACITY AROUND THE FOVEA.

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THE case is similar to those that have been reported by Magnus, Goldzieher and Knapp. Magnus's case appeared in the Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde, January, 1885; Goldzieher's (the orginal report of which I have not been able to consult) in the Wiener Med. Wochenschrift, No. 11, 1885; Knapp spoke, at the Heidelberg Congress, in 1885, of two cases he had seen.

Ida Fleischer, eleven months old, the child of German Jews, was seen at the Massachusetts General Hospital, February 8, 1887. She had a good color and appeared very well nourished, but was unable to sit or stand or hold her head up, or even to hold anything in her hands. Her flesh was excessively soft, and the muscles of the back so thin that the transverse processes of the vertebræ could be easily felt. The head was apparently well formed, the face sufficiently intelligent, but she took very little notice of anything. She was said never to cry. Bowels very constipated. Heart sounds normal. Knee jerk present.

The eyes were externally normal; mobility apparently good; pupils rather large, but fairly active. Vision was evidently very imperfect, and during ophthalmoscopic examination she fixed pretty steadily the mirror, so that it was difficult to obtain a satisfactory view of the discs. From the fleeting view obtained the discs did not seem to vary from the usual appearance at her age; that is, they were rather

grayish, but with apparently normal vessels. The steady fixation, however, made it very easy to study the macula. Here there was a dark red oval at the centre, surrounded by a whitish, evenly-tinted zone, on which fine retinal vessels could be distinctly traced. The picture recalled vividly that seen with embolism of the central artery, but with this difference—the zone was of uniform width, and although it shaded off somewhat toward the periphery, its outer edge was yet pretty sharply defined, but not so sharply as its inner edge. The diameter of the zone was about one and a half times that of the disc. The macula-reflex, which Magnus described as encircling the zone, I could not see, as Knapp could not in his cases. The remainder of the fundus appeared normal. The picture was alike in both eyes.

The child was seen again after a short interval, and once more on June 30th. Meanwhile, her appetite had been fair, but she had lost much flesh, although still looking in fair condition. There was the same weakness. She took no notice of objects or movements about her. She had slight convulsive movements several times daily, and occasionally laughed aloud, as she did once in my presence. The pupils varied in size, though never small, and apparently not influenced by light, and she seemed to see nothing. Whereas in February the mirror was fixed during examination, it now excited no attention whatever, and it was easy to get a good view of the discs. They were sharply defined, gray, entirely without fine vessels, the central vessels rather small. The macular region and other parts of the fundus appeared as before, except that I could not now see any fine retinal vessels on the whitish zone.

By the mother's account this was her sixth child. The first four were healthy and strong. The fifth child, born some four years before this one, in Germany, had presented similar symptoms and died at the age of eighteen months, having wasted excessively after being weaned. After its death the mother came to America, was sick for a long time after her arrival here, then grew better and conceived, but was again sick during pregnancy. Since the birth of the child she had been fairly well. The father was healthy.

DISCUSSION.

DR. KNAPP.—The case which has been described is an exceedingly rare but very characteristic alteration in the eye-ground of infants. It is connected with a peculiar disease. The cases thus far recorded have all ended in blindness, followed by an early death. The affection seems to be connected with an arrest of development in the cerebral cortex, as Dr. Sachs, who made the post-mortem of the case which I have reported, tells me. The weak and apathetic child was taken to Long Branch, where it rallied somewhat, but the following winter it emaciated, became weaker and weaker, and when I saw it in May of last year it was almost completely paralyzed. The pupils were large and immovable; the optic discs, which when I had seen them last were only a little pale, were totally atrophic. Only traces of retinal vessels could be seen, but the opacity around the yellow spot had not changed.

The child died. Dr. Sachs will describe the condition of the cerebral cortex. I think that the ocular change is an imperfect clearing up of the central portion of the retina, which in its structure is very much like the cerebral cortex. If we meet with a case of congenital brain disease and find on ophthalmoscopic examination the picture which has been described, I think that we have warrant to pronounce the prognosis fatal.

DETACHMENT OF THE RETINA IN BOTH EYES WITH ALBUMINURIA OF PREGNANCY: REPLACEMENT OF RETINA.

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DETACHMENT of the retina is so infrequent in connection with the albuminuria of pregnancy, that I wish to place a case on record. The case is further interesting as presenting what is also quite unusual in albuminuric retinitis, very extensive choroidal changes.