

THE PATHOLOGICAL MUSEUM AT EASTBOURNE

The Museum Committee is to be congratulated on the excellent way in which it arranged the large number of exhibits, which consisted of about eight hundred specimens, illustrations, charts, photomicrographs, and *x*-ray plates. They were grouped as far as possible in sections corresponding to the Sections of the Annual Meeting, so that it was easy to find specimens illustrating the various papers given. The instructive series in the first room was lent by the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, Eastbourne, and the East Sussex County Mental Hospital, Hellingly. Perforation of the arch of the aorta by tuberculous ulceration, a brain from a case of juvenile general paralysis of the insane, and a portion of stomach from a case of suicidal cyanide poisoning, were particularly interesting. On the surgical side, the collections of specimens, drawings, photomicrographs, fractional test-meal charts, and *x*-ray photographs illustrating various types of carcinoma of the stomach, formed a fairly complete unit—a graphic commentary on all aspects of this disease. On this side, too, there were specimens from the local hospital, among which was a carcinoma of the appendix from a girl, 14 years of age.

The *x*-ray photographs were especially well displayed, and included a series of pyelograms illustrating the excretion and ureter catheter method, and another the recent diagnostic methods in renal affections. A very clear and demonstrable collection of ventriculograms, with excellent descriptions and reasoned diagnosis, was shown. An exhibition of radiograms of the chest in cases of silicosis was of general as well as of special interest, since it included specimens from patients working in eighteen different occupations, varying from asbestos workers to pearl cutters, and from gold miners to ganister workers. A series of exhibits illustrating physiological changes in the sex organs of monkeys was one of the features of the obstetric and gynaecological section. The injected transparencies of the mammary glands of monkeys were excellent examples of the advance made in the methods of preparing specimens for demonstration. It was a pity that more information did not accompany the specimens; for, although it was obvious enough that the mammary glands varied in size, there was no note of the size of the monkeys from which they were obtained. In this section there was also a fine assembly of mounted specimens, water-colour drawings, and microscope slides illustrating endometrioma of the pelvic organs. Here, too, it was refreshing to find that the good old diagnosis of adenomyoma has not been entirely abandoned by all gynaecologists.

The feature of the pathological collection was a series illustrating infarction of the myocardium. Here there was an exceptionally good group of skiagrams showing the coronary arteries in health and disease, and with them a description of the apparatus used for injecting these vessels. Similar *x*-ray photographs of a normal and of an arterio-sclerotic kidney demonstrated the wide use of this particular method. Celloidin casts of coronary arteries and a series of hearts, and photomicrographs showing infarcts of the myocardium and their results, excited general interest. Specimens showing necrosed tissue, the granulation tissue reaction to this, fibrosis, aneurysm formation, and rupture with and without aneurysm of the myocardium, were also exhibited in this collection. In a series of normal and diseased adrenal glands were two associated with virilism—in one there was nodular, and in the other diffuse, adrenal hyperplasia: an adrenal melanoma was another rarity in this group. Recent experimental work on cancer was clearly

demonstrated in a small exhibit of specimens, photomicrographs, charts, formulae, and graphs. Other exceptional or interesting specimens in this room were a carcinoma of duodenum, a mottled stomach from a case of melancholia, and six photomicrographs taken with the "super-microscope." In the public health section, in addition to the radiograms of silicosis already referred to, there was an exhibit by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, and a series of photographs illustrating the production and distribution of milk from non-reacting cows. Aneurysms of cerebral arteries formed the bulk of the exhibits in the section of neurology. In the oto-rhino-laryngological section were a number of dissected specimens of the temporal bone, and one showing an impacted dental plate in the upper part of the oesophagus. Coloured drawings, and antique and modern ophthalmological instruments, made up the greater part of the ophthalmological section. The dermatological section contained numerous photographs of skin conditions, including varicose ulcers, and illustrations of the use of thalium acetate in the treatment of ringworm of the scalp. This section was also distinguished by good coloured transparencies. Seven groups of *x*-ray photographs showing abnormalities of the upper end of the femur in childhood and their effects formed the principal exhibit in the section of orthopaedics. Charts and posters were shown in sections of hydrology and medical sociology.

In the past the museums of the majority of medical schools have been for the most part uninspiring collections of more or less unrelated pickled specimens, coloured poorly or not at all, suspended in round jars which distorted or exaggerated their outline. Many of them were in the hospital museum for no other reason than the wish of a clinician to perpetuate his triumph, or in a few cases to point the moral of his mistake. Recently this state of affairs has been gradually giving place to order, arrangement, and more enlightened methods of display. It is in this connexion that temporary museums such as that at Eastbourne, showing the latest methods of colour preservation, mounting, and general arrangement, are useful. The inclusion of photomicrographs, photographs, *x*-ray photographs, charts, and diagrams with the bottled specimens can do much to add interest and life to any collection. The casts and the *x*-ray photographs of the coronary arteries, the injection of mammary glands, and subsequent clearing and bulk staining were all evidence of how a little ingenuity can make obscure specimens demonstrable. The specimens arranged in series, such as those of myocardial infarction, illustrated how clear an idea of a process can be obtained from such a sequence. It is perhaps too much to hope that museums of the future will contain only fully labelled specimens, supported by photomicrographs, pictures, *x*-ray plates, and charts; but a corner might be devoted to this kind of collection, even if the major part is full of unlabelled pots used as pegs for students to guess at and over which teachers and examiners can become facetious. If the museum at Eastbourne assists in raising the standard of medical museums generally it will prove to have been something much more than an interesting feature of this year's British Medical Association meeting.

The fifty-sixth annual report of the Mission to Lepers deals with the year 1930, and is entitled "A service of privilege." In addition to a review of the progress made in different parts of the world in the treatment of leprosy—in which it is mentioned that the work of the Mission now extends to twenty countries, and is being carried on at over 100 centres—illustrations are given of various lines along which it is hoped to develop further. The note of cheerfulness which characterizes the whole report would seem to be well justified.