1908

A Case of the Isolation of Diphtheria Bacilli from a Post Mortem

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(Abstract)

Records seem to show that diphtheria bacilli are not often found in the blood of the patient, but that they may be occasionally after death. Probably at the time of death the bacilli may enter into the circulation, but not as a usual occurrence. On the 20th of January, 1908, the writer was asked to assist at a post mortem of a child, the cause of death presumably being cerebrospinal meningitis. The post mortem appearances seemed to indicate that as the cause of death. Bacterial cultures were taken from the spinal canal, from the brain and from the serous fluid about the heart. The cultures from the spinal cord were all sterile, one from the brain showed some cocci, and the culture from the serous fluid of the heart showed a mixed culture of cocci and diphtheria. Subcultures produced a pure growth of diphtheria.