Toxocara in the Eye

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† (To be published in extenso elsewhere.)

The larva migrans gives rise in the eye to eosinophilia and nodules which resemble tubercles. These nodules may also occur without eosinophilia. In such eyes larvae, or hyaline traces of larvae, should be searched for in serial sections. They are not uncommon in young children, in eyes which are not markedly inflamed.

Discussion

Hagedoorn reminds us that de Haan was the first in this Society who described a nematode in the eye.

Manschot had said earlier, in a paper about pseudo-retinoblastoma in our 1959 Spring Meeting, that according to American investigators nematodes occur frequently in the retina, but that this is very rare in Western Europe.

The first publication about Toxocara as a cause of pseudo-retinoblastoma in Europe appeared in 1960 (Ashton).

He considers that the speaker goes too far when he says that scattered nodules in one eye, varying from fresh lesions resembling tubercles to young hyaline lesions, make a diagnosis of larva migrans 'nearly certain'.

He also considers that the speaker goes too far when he says in his summary that pseudoglioma is more often caused by a nematode than is generally suspected. Manschot has examined all eyes with pseudo-retinoblastoma since 1959 in serial section for the express purpose of demonstrating the presence of nematodes, but without success. In only one eye, from the archives previous to 1959, were there indications that a granulomatous inflammation of the retina with a few giant cells might have been caused by Toxocara. The diagnosis could, however, not be made with certainty as some of the slides were missing and no nematode could be seen in the ones that were present.