

CEREBROSPINAL FLUID IN HEALTH AND IN DISEASE

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649415410

Cerebrospinal Fluid in Health and in Disease by Abraham Levinson & Ludvig Hektoen

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ABRAHAM LEVINSON & LUDVIG HEKTOEN

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Press of
C. V. Mosby Company
St. Louis

TO HIM TO WHOM THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE CONSTITUTES AN IDEAL RATHER THAN A PROFESSION,

TO HIM WHO COMBINES CLINICAL INSIGHT AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH,

TO HIM WHO SEES IN MEDICINE BOTH A SCIENCE AND A PHILOSOPHY,

THIS LITTLE VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

FOREWORD

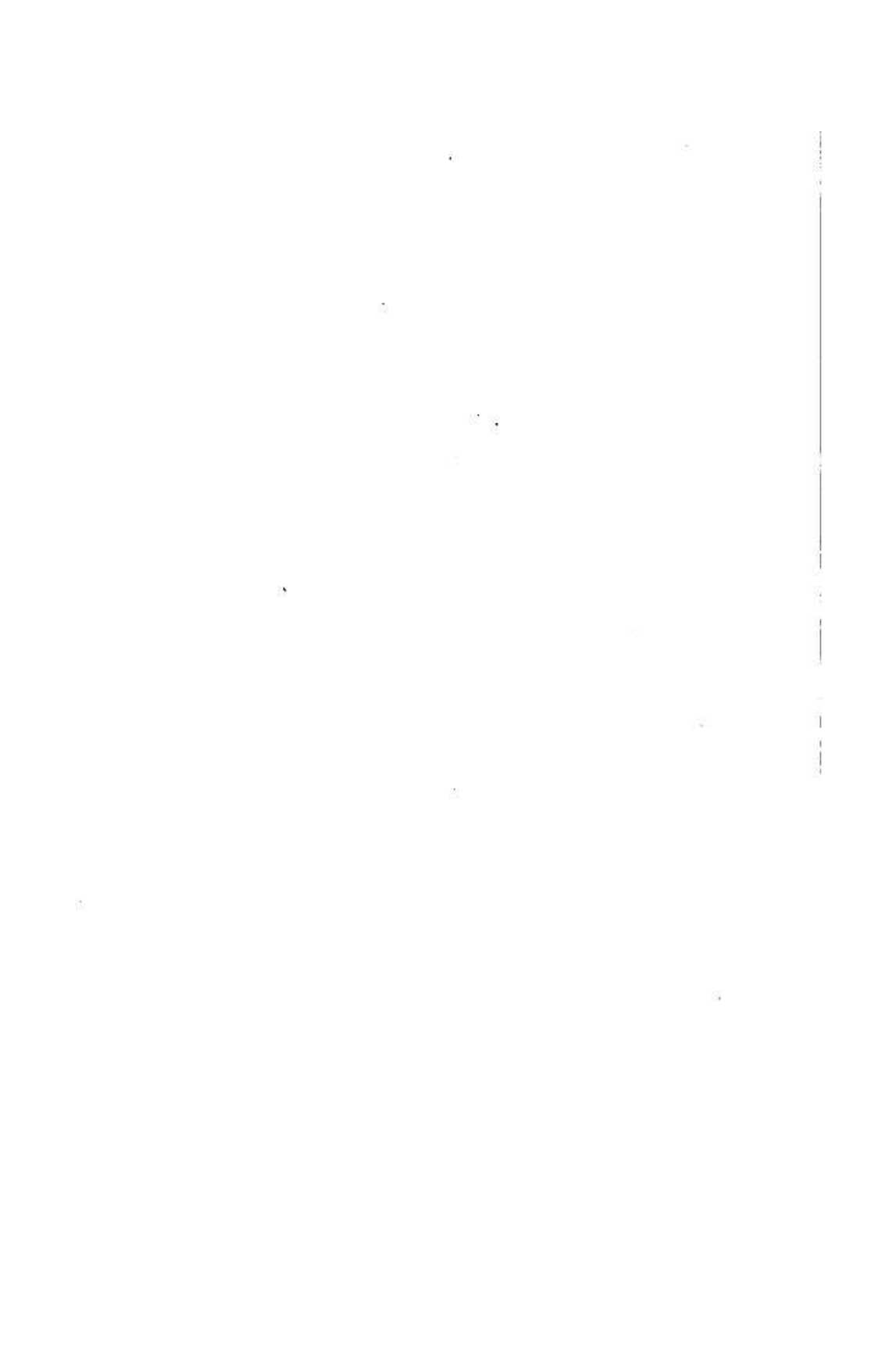
By Ludvig Hektoen, M.D.

The author was kind enough to ask me if I would look over his manuscript and then tell him whether it seemed to me worthy of publication. Later, when I told him that in my opinion he had produced a valuable little book, he requested me to state the reasons for this favorable opinion in the form of a foreword. This I can do in a few brief statements.

In the first place, on reading the manuscript, I soon became aware that the author had come to his task with not only a large experience behind him in the examination by various methods of the cerebrospinal fluid as an aid in diagnosis, but with a highly creditable record in the scientific study of this fluid as well. Evidently he had been drawn to his work on the cerebrospinal fluid because of its attractiveness as a field of research, as well as on account of its importance in diagnosis.

It is to this happy combination of true philosophic interest and first-hand practical knowledge on the part of the author that the book owes its chief merit, namely, thoroughness and freshness in the parts dealing with fundamental problems, as well as in those dealing with practical matters. In the second place there could be no doubt in regard to the timeliness of a work of this kind. Indeed it seemed to me that a definite want would be supplied; for, in spite of an increasing importance in medicine, there was as yet no comprehensive book on all phases of the cerebrospinal fluid.

John McCormick Institute
For Infectious Diseases, Chicago.



PREFACE

Of recent years the study of body fluids has been engaging the attention of many physicians and scientists. Particularly marked has been the interest in the study of cerebrospinal fluid. Through recent investigations of this fluid, we have gained a great deal of information regarding the diagnosis and nature of many diseases and a much clearer conception of the general physiologic processes in the body. Further investigations on the subject will open up new possibilities in science and medicine, for there is hardly another body fluid that presents so favorable an opportunity for the study of physiologic and pathologic processes in the human body as the cerebrospinal fluid.

Cerebrospinal fluid is of great physiologic importance for various reasons. It is the clearest and most transparent of all the fluids of the body. It is clearer than blood, than bile, and even clearer than urine, and under normal conditions experiments may be made on it without fear of clot formation or color change. Furthermore, cerebrospinal fluid, like blood and urine, can be removed from the living body without injury to the system. This gives one the opportunity of working with processes in the living body—a distinct advantage over the study of dead tissue.

From the standpoint of pathology also, cerebrospinal fluid presents an exceptional opportunity for study. The slightest change in the color of the fluid, the smallest increase in the protein content or in the cell count, all of which are easily discernible, indicate the presence of a pathologic process. One is able to follow the course of disease throughout all stages by noting the various changes