CASE No. 59-650

SPECIES: Feline  BREED: Cross  AGE: 3 years  SEX: Female

HISTORY: Animal spayed May 5, 1959. Sudden onset of paraplegia on Sept. 25, 1959. Physical examination by local practitioner said to be normal. Sept. 29, 1959: Pulse, respiration, and cardiac auscultation normal. Reflex examination revealed normal cranial nerve reflexes, normal postural reflexes with the exception of the extensor postural thrust which was absent. The hind limb special reflexes were absent. Sensation was dull in both hind limbs. The animal evidenced urinary incontinence. X-ray examination of the vertebral column was normal. The animal was maintained on symptomatic treatment until Oct. 16, 1959 at which time the skin of the distal right hind leg sloughed away and the cat was necropsied. Cerebrospinal fluid studies from the cisterna magna revealed 11/WBC/mm³ and a protein of 13.5 mg.-%.

PERTINENT NECROPSY FINDINGS included distal dry gangrene of the right hind leg from the hock down. The heart, lungs, aorta, and proximal femoral arteries appeared grossly normal. The right kidney was small with several large infarcts. The musculature of the left hind leg was small and atrophied. The musculature of the right hind leg below the stifle (knee) was atrophied, firm, and white. The muscle lateral to the lumbar spine on the right side was white, firm, with a streaked appearance. Section of the lower lumbar cord revealed cavitation with a semi-liquid consistency of the gray matter.

Sections: Right kidney, right and left musculature, lumbar spinal cord (L₃, L₄, L₆).