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e.g. Jones (1956) considers that . . .
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September, 1958. Of these six had presented with ecchymosis of the eyelids as the first sign, and in one of these cases bruising was the only sign for 4 weeks (Steward, 1960).

Leukaemia is the other important disease producing ecchymosis of the eyelids in childhood. Examination of blood and bone marrow should leave little doubt as to the correct diagnosis, for the haemorrhage in leukaemia, which results from a fall in the platelet count, occurs only when the white blood cell count is abnormal. Haemorrhage in neuroblastoma, on the other hand, is due to the local effects of the secondary tumour deposit and the blood picture is not characteristic. There may be an accompanying secondary anaemia, but the distribution of white blood cells in the peripheral blood is normal. The interpretation of the bone marrow findings in neuroblastoma is not easy.

Summary

A case of neuroblastoma presenting as ecchymosis of the left lower eyelid and conjunctiva is reported. An attempt has been made to show that bruising of the eyelids is not an uncommon presenting sign in neuroblastoma and may, therefore, be of some importance as an aid to early diagnosis. Leukaemia may also present as bruising of the eyelids. The bone marrow findings and particularly the blood picture are of basic importance in differentiating one disease from the other.

I wish to thank Mr. P. L. Blaxter for permission to publish this case. I am also very grateful to Dr. A. Stanworth and Dr. J. K. Steward for their advice and guidance in the preparation of this article, and I am indebted to Dr. Lindley Smith for the photomicrograph.

REFERENCES

Steward, J. K. (1960). Personal communication.

NOTES

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At the Council meeting on May 12, 1961, the following were elected Officers of the Faculty for 1961–1962:

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