(10) The Postapoplexy Syndrome

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1) The syndrome similar to the postmyocardial infarction syndrome was observed to follow the stroke in 3 cases. The illness was characterized by pericarditis and pneumonitis, together with an increase in the sedimentation rate and temperature, leukocytosis, positive RA test and an increase in serum LDH activities. None of our patients had pleural effusion. These syndromes developed from 7 weeks to 17 weeks after the stroke. There was a strong tendency to recurrence. Fever lasted for 3 to 7 days. Lung infiltration disappeared within 1 week, but an enlargement of the cardiac shadow lasted longer. Corticosteroids caused dramatic improvement. Their withdrawal was followed by rebounds.

2) Brain antigenic substances were identified in the blood of patients with strokes by the precipitation method. The percentage of positive cases as well as the precipitation titer was decreased progressively with the passage of time after the strokes. Antibrain autoantibodies were detected in the sera of 3 cases presenting the characteristic syndrome, using the agglutination method of red cells sensitized with brain tissue extracts.

3) When human brain tissue extracts were injected subcutaneously or intraperitoneally into the rabbits 28 days after the intracerebral injection of complete Freund's adjuvant, temperature was raised and pulmonary infiltrations were noted. The histologic study of the lungs disclosed the allergic pattern. Laboratory findings were completely identical with those observed in the patients.

In view of these results, this syndrome might be called the postapoplexy syndrome and due to an autoimmunological process brought about by the cerebral necrosis.