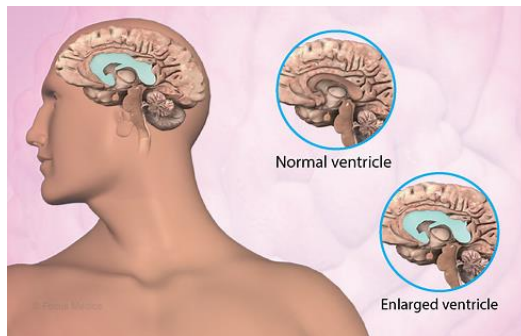


## HEAD, DROPSY OF THE — HYDROCEPHALUS.

This is a slow inflammation of the membranes of the brain in which water is thrown out into the ventricles—cavities—of the brain, and into the spaces between its convolutions or folds. The head frequently becomes enormously large, the bones separating to make room for the enlargement. It is a disease of childhood.



**Symptoms.**—Sometimes this disease exists at birth; if not, the symptoms will be manifest about the sixth month. The child may take its food regularly, yet it does not thrive, and in a few weeks after the dropsy sets in its body is much wasted, the head appears large, the face small, the forehead prominent and heavy, the eyes protrude and are directed downward. The child is irritable and feverish, and

manifests a dislike to light and noise. It has headache and nausea, and its feces are dark-colored and offensive, and it has frequent pain in the abdomen.

**Treatment.**—Nothing can save the child unless the disease is detected early, and the treatment commenced immediately. Keep the bowels free with enemas, and by frequently rubbing and kneading them. Give a tepid sponge-bath daily; keep the room well ventilated, and give the child a nourishing diet. Apply cool water to the head daily by pouring it from a pitcher or by bathing it with a sponge. Keep the extremities always warm. Let the child sleep soundly at night.

*The Hygienic Family Physician: A Complete Guide for the Preservation of Health, and the Treatment of the Sick without Medicine, pg. 291-92 by M. G. Kellogg*