Clinical Report of a Frank Case of Scurvy

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Sephali, a baby girl, aged 10 months, was brought to the Outpatient Department on the 20th May, 1939, with the following complaints:

Complaints:—(1) Sudden protrusion of both the eyes—duration 2 weeks.
(2) Screaming on touching or attempting to move the limbs—duration 10 days.

History of present illness:—The attendant said that the child was quite well until about a month ago. For the last one month she was irritable and out of sorts. One day about a couple of weeks ago, when the child woke up, he noticed that the right eye was very prominent in comparison with the left. She appeared as if she was staring with this eye. Two days later there was a similar prominence also of the left eye. The restlessness of the child increased since then; she could not move her eyes in any direction and was not taking her food as before. For the last 10 days the child was not moving her limbs (both upper and lower) and was crying a lot on touching them.

Past History:—(1) Full-term healthy baby. (2) Artificially fed with boiled milk and barley water only—since birth. (3) No fruit juice was given before.

Family History:—(1) Mother died about a month after the delivery of the child. (2) Father alive and well. (3) Sister—one aged 13 years—alive and well.

No history of a similar illness in the past.

Physical Examination:—

General survey:—A very irritable child with proptosis of both eyes. Pulse regular, 110 per minute, respiration 24 per minute. Temperature was 97.4°F.
Note the changes at the epiphysial ends.

Dense and widened epiphysial line and area of rarefaction beyond this line.

Scurvy—Basu