

one; while in inspiration they sagged closer together, making the respiratory act still more difficult.

Low tracheotomy was done to relieve the stenosis, and the patient was put upon strychnia and arsenic, together with a mixture of iodide of potassa and mercury. Owing to indications of salivation, the latter was not continued very long.

Four years later and at the time of writing Wishart reports improvement. The lost flesh has been regained; the chink between the vocal cords has slightly widened, though the paralysis still continues; the tracheotomy tube cannot be dispensed with, although when the tube is closed with the finger the voice is better than formerly, and the breathing slightly improved.

Diagnosis.—*Tabes dorsalis*, with bilateral involvement of the bulbar nuclei of the spinal accessory, and unilateral involvement of the facial, trigeminal, and slightly of the oculo-motor nerves.

Price-Brown.

MOUTH, FAUCES, Etc.

Hall, F. de Havilland.—*Death from the Bursting of a Tonsillar Abscess.* "Lancet," September 27, 1902.

Almost all the writers on diseases of the throat mention the possibility of this occurring, and a few cases are scattered about in medical literature. There is one, for example, in Sajous's "Annual of the Universal Medical Sciences," 1889, vol. iv., E. 13. The author examined a young woman suffering from quinsy who died suddenly the following night, and at the necropsy the larynx was found to be full of pus. In most of the fatal cases the abscess was ruptured during sleep. The risk of this accident occurring emphasizes the importance of incising the tonsil in cases of suppurative tonsillitis.

StClair Thomson.

Lyons, Alexander.—*Death from the Bursting of a Tonsillar Abscess.* "Lancet," September 20, 1902.

A man, aged twenty-eight years, was admitted suffering from a very large suppurative tonsillitis on the left side. He was given a warm bath and put to bed, where he partook of a glass of milk. About half an hour afterwards the nurse in charge of the ward heard him coughing feebly, and on going to ascertain the cause was surprised to find him cyanosed, and the patient was dead in five or six minutes.

At the post-mortem examination it was found that the abscess had burst, and that a large amount of pus had got into the upper part of the larynx.

On looking up the literature on the subject, the writer finds only one case of a similar kind recorded—viz., by Hilton Fagge.

StClair Thomson.

Steward, Francis J.—*Death after the Removal of Tonsils and Adenoids in a Hæmophilic Child.* "Lancet," November 15, 1902.

A boy, aged seven years, was admitted for enlarged tonsils and adenoids. Ether was administered, and the tonsils and adenoids were removed in the ordinary way. Hæmorrhage at the time of the operation was free, and the patient lost considerably more blood than is usually the case, a good deal being swallowed and subsequently vomited. The bleeding, although excessive, stopped spontaneously, and the patient was put back to bed, when it was noted that the pulse was

160 per minute and very feeble. At 11.30 the pulse had improved, but it was found that both sides of the neck and also the left cheek were considerably swollen from blood extravasations. These swellings steadily increased, and in a short time reached the sternum and clavicles, the patient becoming more and more anæmic, and the pulse more feeble and rapid. No further bleeding took place into the mouth or naso-pharynx. He was ordered ice to suck and enemata of half a drachm of calcium chloride every hour. In the evening dyspnoea gradually developed, and it was found that extravasation of blood was taking place into the pharyngeal submucous tissue. The dyspnoea becoming urgent, intubation was performed at 1 a.m. on the 20th. The relief afforded was, however, only temporary, and at 4 a.m. tracheotomy was performed. Considerable bleeding took place from the tracheotomy wound, but this was checked by the application of adrenalin chloride solution. The general condition, however, became progressively worse, in spite of stimulants and saline infusions, and death took place at 6 p.m., thirty-two hours after the operation.

Necropsy.—At the post-mortem examination the pharynx, larynx, and the tissues of the neck generally were found to be infiltrated with blood. The thymus was much larger than usual. No other abnormality was found.

Although, on inquiry, no definite evidence of hæmophilia in the family or in the previous history of the patient was obtainable, there can be little doubt that this was a severe and quite unsuspected case of hæmophilia. This is borne out not only by the severe hæmorrhage at the operation and the extravasation of blood into the neck, but also by the marked tendency to bleeding, which was evidenced both in the tracheotomy incision and at the site of the needle punctures where the saline infusions were made.

The case is certainly peculiar, on the other hand, in that no bleeding occurred from either the site of the tonsils or from the naso-pharynx after the time of the operation, whereas steady and progressive extravasation of blood took place into the submucous tissues of the pharynx and larynx, and also formed large swellings in the left cheek and on either side of the neck. Moreover, this peculiar form of hæmorrhage precluded any attempt at local treatment.

StClair Thomson.

E A R.

Harris, T. J.—*Chronic Catarrhal Otitis.* "Medical Examiner and Practitioner," October, 1902.

Under the heading of "Chronic Catarrh" two varieties are included: (1) Chronic hypertrophic catarrh; (2) chronic hyperplastic catarrh.

In pure catarrhal lesions of the middle ear the lower limit of sound perception is always raised. This phenomenon is best demonstrated by the employment of the Dench-Bezold tuning-fork. Bone conduction is also always lengthened, especially for the low range of the series of tuning-forks, whilst the upper limit for sound-waves in pure middle-ear catarrh remains undisturbed.

In hyperplastic catarrh post-mortem examinations have revealed distinct deposits of bony tissue with ankylosis around the incudo-stapedial joint, whilst similar deposits have been found within the