

THYROID GLAND AND NECK.

Torretta, A.—*The Parathyroid Glandules in Mammals; Comparative Anatomico-Physiological Researches.* “Annales des Maladies de l’Oreille,” etc., December, 1901.

In this paper the author comes to the following results :

1. That in every mammal examined the parathyroid glandules have no special vessels, but obtain their blood from the thyroid arteries.

2. That in the *canis familiaris* the blood-supply of the thyroid gland is carried on exclusively by two arteries entering the gland at different levels, usually a little below the cricoid cartilage, and corresponding, without doubt, to the superior thyroid arteries of man. In these animals, as in the cat, inferior thyroid arteries are exceptional.

3. In man there is, on the contrary, an inferior thyroid artery (one on each side), which distributes blood to the parathyroid glandules internally and externally, although injection only of the superior thyroid arteries reaches the two parathyroid glandules, or, at least, the superior one; but imperfectly, and evidently only by reason of the anastomosis existing between the terminal branches of the two arterial systems of the thyroid glands.

Torretta's general conclusions upon the subject are :

1. The parathyroid glandules are found in all mammals examined to the number of four, two outer and two inner (except in the *mus decumanus alb.*, which has no inner glandules). Their structure is characteristic, and corresponds to the observations of all other investigators, and they have special functions, which are very imperfectly understood. It must be admitted that the parathyroids are organs morphologically and functionally distinct, having nothing in common with the supernumerary thyroid glands, nor with the carotid glands.

2. At one period of life, more or less prolonged, according to the animal, one should be able, by a series of careful researches, to demonstrate the continuity of tissue of the internal parathyroids with the thyroid gland, and of the external ones with the thymus. These facts are based on the observations of Kohn on the *felis catus*, of Fusari on the human embryo, and of the author's on the fetus of *canis familiaris*. Therefore the former should be called *parathyroids*, and the latter *parathymics*.

3. It can only be shown that the parathyroids were embryonic thyroid glands, to supply the physiological waste of the thyroid gland.

4. These glands have no particular bloodvessels, but obtain their blood from the inferior thyroid arteries in man, and from the superior vessels in *canis familiaris*, *felis catus*, etc. Macleod Yearsley.

E A R.

Breyre.—*A Case of Cholesteatoma without Suppuration.* “Revue Hebdomad. de Laryngology,” etc., November 30, 1901.

Cholesteatomata are divided into two classes—first, primary, arising quite independently of any inflammation or suppuration. They are very rare, and their pathogenesis is not yet ascertained. Second, secondary; the epithelium of the meatus proliferates, and grows into the attic or antrum and mastoid cells through a perforation in the

membrane of Shrapnell, or in the posterior wall of the meatus, etc. Caseous masses resulting from the drying up of inflammatory exudations are not cholesteatomata.

Breyre reports a case of cholesteatoma of the attic. A woman, forty-five years of age, suddenly began to suffer from severe pain in the head, vertigo, deafness, and insomnia, in December, 1900. In spite of treatment by analgesics, etc., this condition persisted till March, 1901, when patient consulted B. He found a large mass of cholesteatoma filling the left attic, and projecting through a perforation in Shrapnell's membrane. On removing this mass, the headache, etc., ceased, and hearing improved considerably. The cavity, which was not very sensitive, was carefully explored with a probe; no bare bone could be found, and no pus was seen at any time. Patient stated that she had never had discharge from the ear, though two years ago she had had an attack of earache which lasted twenty-four or thirty-six hours. Since then the ear had remained perfectly well till the onset of present illness. The headache and vertigo returned several times after the first removal of the cholesteatoma, but always disappeared after the removal of more masses of epidermis by means of Hartmann's attic syringe.

Arthur J. Hutchison.

De Champeaux.—*A Case of Jacksonian Epilepsy due to Disease of the Ear.* "Arch. Internat. de Laryngologie," etc., November-December, 1901.

The patient was a youth, aged sixteen years, suffering from chronic suppuration in the left ear. Pus was abundant, and there was a large polypus. Both tonsils were hypertrophied, and there were voluminous adenoids. The polypus was cauterized with perchloride of iron and alcohol drops ordered. Later, curetting was necessary. The epileptic seizures disappeared as the ear improved.

Macleod Yearsley.

Clauda.—*Two Instances of Foreign Bodies in the Auditory Meatus.* "Arch. Internat. de Laryngologie," etc., November-December, 1901.

Clauda's two cases were patients aged forty and thirty-five respectively. The first had introduced into his left meatus, at the age of seven years, a temporary canine tooth; the second had similarly placed in his right ear, when five years old, a pebble. Clauda concludes:

1. A foreign body may remain in an ear a long time—twenty-five to thirty years, for example—without its presence causing any symptom other than deafness.

2. The first treatment that should be used should be the injection of warm water. In the majority of cases these injections give the best results.

Macleod Yearsley.

Collier, Mayo.—*A Case of Acquired Deaf-Mutism, probably due to Cerumen. Rapid recovery of Hearing and Speech on removal of Cerumen.* "The Medical Press and Circular," January 15, 1902.

This was the case of a girl, aged nine years. She had been bright and intelligent up to the age of two years, when she contracted typhoid fever, from which she recovered without detriment. At three she suffered from a virulent attack of measles, and was unconscious for fourteen days. This was, however, unaccompanied by any middle-ear suppuration. From that time she became deaf, the symptoms increasing slowly, and being accompanied by diminution of speech, until her vocabulary became limited to some three or four sounds.

There was no history of deaf-mutism or ear disease in the family, and the child was normal in all other respects.

In both ears were found hard inspissated masses of cerumen of old standing, which were very difficult to remove. The membranes were retracted, somewhat opaque, but otherwise healthy. The pharynx was free from disease, but the inferior turbinals were enlarged. Politzer's douche was used, and a nasal wash ordered.

From the time the wax was removed the child rapidly recovered her hearing, and with it her speech. *Macleod Yearsley.*

Gaudier.—*The Use of Methylene Blue in the Treatment of Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media.* "L'Echo Méd. du Nord," October 13, 1901.

For two months Gaudier has used methylene blue as ear-drops in the treatment of certain forms of chronic suppurative otitis specially in those foetid cases in children which often are so rebellious to all kinds of treatment. He has used it under exactly the same conditions as he would have used any other instillations. He thinks it is a very effective deodorant; but as regards cessation of discharge, the results obtained were much the same as those obtained by using any of the other ordinary instillations (hydrogen peroxide, formaline, etc.). It has the great disadvantage of staining whatever it touches a deep blue.

Arthur J. Hutchison.

Gellé.—*Crossed Acoustic Paralysis.* "Arch. Internat. de Laryngologie," etc., November-December, 1901.

This very interesting and important paper is illustrated by nine cases—five of paralysis of the auditory without facial palsy, and four of auditory paralysis associated with facial paralysis on the same side as the deafness. The clinical and post-mortem facts show that tuberculosis and syphilis are the almost exclusive causes of such paralysis.

Macleod Yearsley.

Koenig, C. J.—*On a Case of Congenital Malformation of the Larynx.* "Arch. Internat. de Laryngologie," November-December, 1901.

The patient was a female singer, aged twenty years, who complained of a sensation of tickling and pressure on the left side of the larynx when she sang the highest notes of her voice, and which caused a slight cough. The larynx was perfectly healthy, save for a bridge of mucous membrane passing between the summit of the left arytenoid cartilage and the epiglottis, between its left border and summit. The author refused to interfere with the condition.

Macleod Yearsley.

Lafarelle.—*Diverticulum of the Tympanic Cavity.* "Revue Hebdomad., de Laryngol," etc., November 30, 1901.

The specimen was taken from the body of a man who had died of general meningitis of otitic origin. At the post-mortem examination the malformation was not observed, and the petrous bone having been divided by a saw-cut extending through external meatus, tympanum, and internal meatus, only the posterior half was kept. On clearing away the granulation tissue from the tympanum, this cavity was found to have no proper floor, but to extend into a secondary cavity passing downwards, inwards, and slightly backwards. The diverticulum was about the same size as the tympanum; its walls were irregular, and contained numerous smaller diverticula. It was, like the tympanum

full of granulation tissue. The two cavities were joined together by a somewhat narrow isthmus lying between the promontory and the sulcus tympanicus. Two small osseous canals opened into the diverticulum—the one was apparently the aquæ ductus cochleæ, but the other could not be accounted for; it extended from the infero-external portion of the diverticulum to the base of the skull, opening 2 millimetres internal to the stylo-mastoid foramen.

Lafarelle has not been able to find any similar case recorded.

Arthur J. Hutchison.

Martuscelli, G. (Naples).—*Two Cases of Anomalous Auricle, with Operation in One.* "Archiv. Ital. di Otologia," etc., Turin, November, 1901.

These anomalies were observed in an infant of four months and in a young girl. In the first the right auricle was represented by a small fold of cartilage and skin 3 centimetres long, with a little lobule. The antitragus was connected by a bridge with the fold, and the whole completely closed the external meatus. The author performed a plastic operation, forming an auricle from the fold and two flaps from the skin behind it, with good result. The girl was tuberculous, and suffered from chronic double otitis media. The rudimentary auricle was folded down and forward in such a way as to surround the lobule, which projected. The helix, antihelix, and concha were preserved. No operation. The author points out that, as embryology shows, such imperfections of the auricle are not necessarily connected with defects of the internal apparatus.

James Donelan.

Pacinotti, G. (Camerino).—*Otomycosis and Red Cerumen.* "Boll. delle Malattie dell' Orecchio," etc., Florence, January, 1902.

The author gives a résumé of the work done by various investigators regarding the causes of otomycosis, from Meyer in 1844 to Perroncito in 1901. The more frequent schizomycetes described have been *aspergillus flavus*, *niger*, or, *fumigatus*, producing inflammation of the meatus (otomycosis), or of the tympanum (myringo-mycosis). Eidam and Siebenmann found the *Aspergillus nidulans*, and Lindt, in 1889, an aspergillus which he termed *malignus*, on account of its virulence in animals. Siebenmann also found *Penicillium minimum*, Bezold, *Verticillium graphii*, Jakowsky, the *Mucor ramosus* of Lindt. Other authors found other forms distinguished by their colour.

Pacinotti describes the organism found in the meatus of a man of dirty habits who had died of pneumonia. The orifice was surrounded by a vermilion crust of velvety appearance, which was examined bacteriologically. An independent examination was made by Prof. Saccardo of Padua, who considers the organism found to be the *Oospora crustacea*, otherwise *Mucor crustaceus*, which often grows on cheese or on dough containing fat. This organism occurs in the form of numerous branching threads bearing globular or oval spores. The threads grow from opposite poles of individual spores, and interlace in all directions. They exhibit marked and continuous Brownian movements. Amongst the interlacing threads are numerous amorphous red granules, which give the characteristic colour to the mass. The organism is aerobic, and grows best at 25° to 30° C. in glycerinated non-acid agar, which is not liquefied. The author is uncertain whether it can be identified with the *Otomyces Purpureus* of Wreden. Injected into the peritoneum of white rats it produced metastatic foci of the

ospore in the viscera. A large dose in the peritoneum of a dog had no result, and none followed a similar injection in the jugular of another. Unlike the organisms described by other authors, it does not appear to possess any marked pathological influence on the auditory canal, though it may give rise to inflammation of the meatus and tympanum. The article is illustrated by two coloured photomicrographs.

James Donelan.

Toubert, J.—*Two Cases of Foreign Bodies in the Auditory Meatus.* "Arch. Internat. de Laryngologie," etc., November - December, 1901.

The two cases described by Toubert are reported on account of their being instances of prolonged tolerance of foreign bodies by patients ignorant of their presence. The first case was that of a soldier, aged twenty-two years, in whom a plug of cerumen in the right meatus concealed an insect, which had entered the ear eleven years before. The second patient was also a soldier, aged twenty-one years, and the foreign body was, in this instance, a pea in the right ear. He did not know how long it had been present.

Macleod Yearsley.

THERAPEUTICS.

Hallopeau.—*The Use of Methylene Blue in Ozæna.* "La Médecine Moderne," No. 41, October, 1901.

In a paper read at the Académie de Médecine, Hallopeau reports that the foetid odour in ozæna disappears in a few days by the use of irrigations containing 40 grains of methylene blue to the litre.

Anthony McCall.

Molinié.—*On the Use of the Dissociating Properties of Peroxide of Hydrogen in Oto-rhinology.* "Revue Hebdom. de Laryng.," etc., November 30, 1901.

In this short paper Molinié recommends the use of peroxide of hydrogen as an aid in the removal of dressings, such as strips of gauze, etc., from ear and nose. No matter how adherent the layers of gauze may be to one another, and to the raw surface left by an operation, they will separate with perfect ease after soaking for five or ten minutes in H_2O_2 , and thus save both pain and hæmorrhage. Impacted cerumen, plugs of epithelium and hair, the scales of otitis externa diffusa, and the false membranes of pseudo-membranous otitis, can all be removed with ease after being bathed in peroxide. In the nose tampons may be freely used (*e.g.*, after section of synechiæ), as they can be removed without any hæmorrhage after soaking in peroxide; moreover, if they have been soaked in peroxide before being introduced into the nose, they can be safely left *in situ* for several days. The author has not had the opportunity of testing the action of peroxide in cases of pseudo-membranous rhinitis, but thinks it ought at least to be tried.

Arthur J. Hutchison.

Moure and Brindel.—*On the Use of Adrenalin in Oto-rhino-laryngology.* "Revue Hebdom. de Laryng.," etc., December 28, 1901.

The authors, having experimented on a large variety of cases with adrenalin, pronounce it to be a vaso-constrictor of great energy and prolonged action. They say that adrenalin is to suprarenal extract