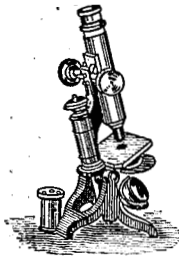


Medical Matters.

NASO-PHARYNGEAL DISEASE IN PEDIATRIC PRACTICE.



FRANCIS HUBER discusses in the *Archives of Pediatrics*, the above subject from the side of the specialist as well as of the general practitioner. The main functions of the nose are respiratory, olfactory, to give resonance to the voice, and to act as a regulator of the aëration of the middle-ear and of the accessory air chambers in the ethmoidal and sphenoidal bones. Patency and healthy mucous membranes are essential to proper performance of the work. In summing up, the writer says: (1) The removal of the lymphoid hypertrophies in the naso and oropharynx, with the care of the associated naso-pharyngeal catarrh, will restore the patency and permeability of the nose. If done early, many local pathological changes may be avoided. (2) The general health will be more or less improved. (3) The mental faculties and general intelligence will be improved. (4) Defects in speech and in hearing due to nasal troubles will disappear. (5) Deafmutism may be relieved. (6) The functions of taste and smell will be restored. (7) Reflex neuroses of various kinds will be modified or cured. (8) Nasal and supposed pulmonary hæmorrhages will disappear. (9) Thoracic deformities will be relieved or cured. (10) The tendency to acuterhinitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, bronchitis, and pneumonia becomes less and less with the restoration of normal respiration. (11) The dangers attending the presence of enlarged cervical lymph nodes will be avoided. (12) The invasion of various infectious diseases is less likely when the nasal mucous membrane is in a healthy state. (13) The danger of meningeal infection from the naso-pharynx will be lessened. (14) Ear complications in general, and particularly those incidental to the infectious diseases, will be avoided or rendered less dangerous.

TREATMENT OF TYPHOID PERFORATION OF THE BOWEL.

Dr. W. W. Keen in a paper read in the discussion on "Typhoid Fever" at the meeting of the New York State Medical Association in October, 1899, in which he records a hundred and fifty-eight cases in tabular form, says in the journal of the American Medical

Association, that his views on the operative treatment of typhoid perforation may be summarised as follows: (1) The surgeon should be called in consultation the moment that any abdominal symptoms indicative of possible perforation are observed. (2) If it is possible to determine the existence of the perforative stage, exploratory operation should be done under cocaine anæsthesia before perforation, shock, and sepsis have occurred. (3) After perforation has occurred, operation should be done at the earliest possible moment, provided: (4) that we wait till the primary shock, if any is present, has subsided. (5) In a case of suspected, but doubtful perforation, a small exploratory opening should be made under cocaine to determine the existence of a perforation, and if hospital facilities for a blood-count and for immediate bacteriological observation exist, their aid should be invoked. (6) The operation should be done quickly, but thoroughly, and in accordance with the technique already indicated. (7) The profession at large must be aroused to the possibility of a cure in nearly, if not quite, one-third of the cases of perforation, provided speedy surgical aid is invoked.

THE LIGHT CURE OF LUPUS.

The reputation of the light cure, which has now had a fair trial at the London Hospital, in the treatment of lupus is becoming increasingly great, and there is little doubt that in the future it will be adopted in other institutions as a remedial agent in this most distressing disease. The Princess of Wales, whose tender-heartedness with regard to suffering is well known, was the means of nurses being sent from the London Hospital to Denmark to learn to apply the light cure, and herself presented the first lamp to the Hospital, and a ward of eight beds is now devoted to the application of the treatment. A nurse is assigned to each patient, and the treatment consists in directing an apparatus, which in appearance somewhat resembles a big telescope, so that an intense white light, supplied from a lamp, is applied to the affected part. Each lamp supplies four "telescopes" with the requisite light, which, when applied to the patient, is perfectly cool, as through the last two lenses of the telescope it passes through water. Each lamp costs £500 and is worked by a dynamo stationed in an adjoining out-house. It is satisfactory to learn that the cure is a painless one.

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