

indeed closely allied to tonsillitis, both in childhood and later life. "Sore throat," which is apt to be treated lightly, is thus an important danger signal, and the slighter cases must not be allowed to outweigh in our minds the severer forms of the disease, which lead to abscess formation, and even septicæmia.

OPERATIONS ON THE TONSILS.

The above is but a brief survey of the consequences, immediate and remote, of tonsillitis.

Let us now see how surgery deals with the cause of the evil.

Many are the methods which have been brought forward; let us mention the most popular: the guillotine, the cautery, and enucleation.

The guillotine may be used in two ways: either the tonsil is removed entire, or only a superficial slice cut off. In the latter instance the patient is bound to suffer from a recurrence of his symptoms, and it is not a very unusual thing to meet cases who have been subject to three or more operations. In the hands of the expert the majority of diseased tonsils can be removed entire by the guillotine. However, a number of cases remain which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by that method; the small, fibrosed, adherent tonsil will baffle even the expert.

The cautery is having a certain vogue on the Continent. But its use is open to grave objections; the tonsils are placed in the neighbourhood of important structures which would be liable to injury if the cautery was used with a free hand. Caution is imperative, and leads in many cases to imperfect removal of the diseased gland.

Another objection lies in the fact that scar tissue develops after the operation, and by its growth may lead to alteration of the voice; the use of the cautery is more likely to be followed by a large amount of scar tissue than a clean dissection.

Enucleation of the tonsils, after Mr. Waugh's method, remains the operation of choice. It answers best the requirements of modern surgery: the operation field is under full view, the whole organ can be removed, any portion which might tear off in the process can be subsequently dissected, and stitches are easily introduced and hæmorrhage controlled.

This operation has been adopted at Great Ormond Street to the exclusion of all others. It may rightly be considered the greatest achievement of preventive surgery.

NURSING ECHOES.

Many old registrationists express themselves as "so disgusted over this election" that they are not going to vote twice. We hope they will think better of it. Duty is duty in spite of others failing to perform it. Don't forget the advice of the great Nelson. Then, if you win or lose, you will have nothing to reproach yourselves with.

We deeply regret to report the very serious illness of Sister Cartwright, the able and devoted Sister Secretary of the Registered Nurses' Society for upwards of twenty-seven years. Known to hundreds of private nurses of the highest class during all those years one and all have held her in the deepest respect and affection. It is hoped that Sister Cartwright will leave London for a long rest in the country at the end of this week. Her many sincere friends will wish her a speedy recovery.

We also learn with sincere regret of the illness of Miss Jessie Davies, Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Bradford. Miss Davies stands out in professional ranks as one of our most able Matrons, as an expert teacher and devoted leader of the younger generation of nurses. Her illness has aroused the deepest sorrow not only at Bradford but among her colleagues at Leicester, where her work was held in the highest esteem by everyone who knew her.

The January number of the *Ranyard Magazine*, published at Ranyard House, 25, Russell Square, W.C., contains much interesting information concerning the Ranyard Mission and its Nursing Branch. The dominant note as the Mission turns the corner of the New Year is one of praise and thanksgiving. "That looked-for deficit of £5,000—how it weighed! But the gifts came in, and, as we write, we hope to end the year without a debt. We thank God again for this fresh proof that 'prayer does things,' and face the estimated deficit of £4,000 for 1923 with hearts expectant of more help to come."

The Annual Sale of Work has this year been fixed for March 14th, and the Council appeals for the help and co-operation of all friends of the Mission.

At the last Council Meeting permission was given for the work to be carried on on its present level for one year more, which means

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