

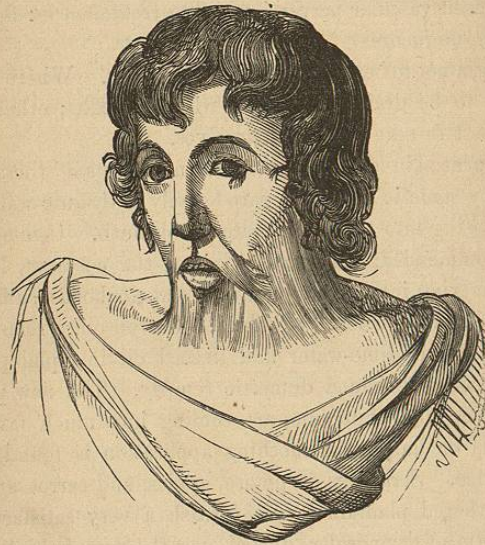
A good and comforting poultice is made of bread and milk or of ground flaxseed and water: whether to be applied cold or warm is best determined by the feelings of the patient. If vascular disturbance be present to an undesirable extent, great good is derived by admixture with the mass of lead-water and laudanum.

R.—Plumbi acetatis, ℥j;
Tincturæ opii, ℥j;
Aquæ, Oi. M.

S.—The poultice to be thinned with this.

Where passivity or tardiness of condition intervene, the poultice is wisely replaced with a stimulating unguent. In this direction Kentish's ointment, mixed in equal parts with oxide of zinc ointment, highly recommends itself. In the way of fluid applications tincture of marigold is found serviceable; also almond or olive oil in which has been infused the fruit *Momordica balsamina* (balsam apple); also glycerine to which has been added a fourth part of red ointment; also, where passivity approaches deadness, the compound tincture of capsicum, used pure or dilute, as indicated.

FIG. 378.



Burn of neck; showing contraction; remedy lying alone in operation.

Where erysipelas threatens, absolute reliance is to be placed on the following combination, the application to be renewed each one or two hours, or oftener if found necessary; it cannot be repeated too frequently so long as the shiny blush and tension persist.

R.—Tincturæ ferri chloridi, ℥j;
Tincturæ cinchonæ, ℥j;
Quiniæ sulphatis, ℥j.

A sloughing part is to be kept both stimulated and disinfected. To this end carbolized fluids may be used; or, if the part be irritable, phénol sodique answers a better purpose. Tar-water, to which has been added required proportions of the aqua chlorinata and tincture of capsicum, is found serviceable.* Still another application is the permanganate of potash; a solution being made of five grains to the ounce of water.

Where an eschar is large, a succeeding indication refers to the prevention of scar. Two means here apply: mechanical fixation and skin-grafting. From the first little good is to be expected. The second is seldom wisely omitted.

Skin-grafting includes the planting over the surface of a wound of points of skin removed from well parts, and the transference of flaps, having temporary relation by pedicle to neighboring parts, into the seat made vacant by the falling slough. The latter means promises greatest benefit. (See *Plastic Operations*.)

In operating for the relief of deformity from scar-tissue regard is to be had to the time intervening between date of proposed operation and that of reception of the injury. It is well to let months if not years elapse, except indeed the performance be attempted at the time of accident; a matter, the consideration of which should imply the possession of a wide experience. No objection holds, however, to the immediate use of skin-grafts. To receive such grafts the ulcer is to be in a condition developing healthy granulations.

* Tar-water, one pint;
Chlorine-water, one ounce;
Tincture of capsicum, one ounce.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE TONSIL GLANDS.

THE tonsil glands, situated on either side of the oro-pharyngeal space, between the half arches, are readily exposed by depressing the tongue through the medium of any convenient means. An instrument made especially for the purpose, called a "depressor," is found well adapted to the purpose.*

The tonsils, glandular organs, described by Virchow as analogue of the lymphatic glands, are made up of many lobules, congeries of mucous follicles, with intervening sulci lined by involutions of the common mucous membrane. Inflammation, simple or acute, and chronic or morbid, is the disease of these bodies. With the first are associated the various features of vascular perversion, passing from the most transient of congestions to the most threatening of abscesses.

Simple tonsillitis—angina tonsillaris—amygdalitis—is an inflammation of the substance of the gland. Looking into the mouth, the bodies, one or both, are discovered unduly colored and swollen. If the inflammation be of any severity as to grade, the patient experiences pain and difficulty in swallowing, together with a sense of dryness, heat, and fever in the mouth and pharynx; and these discomforts, influenced by the character of the attack, may progress until it becomes impossible to swallow, and in many cases exceedingly difficult to breathe.

As a gargle, found useful in such cases,—or rather as an application to hold in contact with the parts, for the act of gargling may be impossible,—the following will be employed with satisfaction:

R.—Plumbi acetatis, ℥j;
Tincturæ opii, ℥j;
Aquæ, Ojss. M.

A second medicament, highly esteemed by many, consists in a combination of tannin and glycerine, the application being made to the parts with a brush.

In the cases in which congestion is associated with passivity, resolution is found oftentimes quickly effected by a gargle compounded as follows:

R.—Sodæ biberatis, ℥iij;
Potassii chloratis, ℥j;
Tincturæ capsici, ℥ij;
Tincturæ myrrhæ, ℥j;
Aquæ, ℥viiij. M.

* It is a singular fact that depression of the tongue is commonly most easily secured by simply laying the depressor upon it. When force is employed, the organ, in many cases, resists, spasmodically crowding against the roof of the mouth. Directing a patient to inspire exposes the tonsils.

Another practice, which the author has found happily applicable to these latter conditions, consists in first brushing the parts with a solution of nitrate of silver, four grains to the ounce of water, and afterward using a compound iodine and carbolic acid gargle.

R.—Tincturæ iodinii compositæ, gtt. xl;
Acidi carbolicæ fluidi, gtt. vj;
Glycerinæ, ℥j;
Aquæ, ℥vij. M.

An application for the treatment of acute tonsillitis, recommended by I. H. Peabody, M.D., as a specific is as follows: Take of oil of turpentine ℥ij, of pulverized chlorate potash a like quantity, of white sugar and gum arabic ℥ss each, of water ℥v. These are to be mixed, and being well shaken and united, the patient is to slowly swallow a teaspoonful each hour or two until relieved. The writer's experience has not been satisfactory with it.

Phénol sodique diluted with water, in proportion of a tablespoonful of the former to a gobletful of the latter, affords a grateful gargle in acute tonsillitis. In very many cases the use of this combination is all-sufficient to a cure. In ulcerative conditions its employment is to be advised.

Tincture of belladonna has lately received much commendation as a remedy in acute tonsillitis,—being administered in from two- to fifteen-drop doses, repeated every two hours until the patient is relieved, or until contraindicated, either as dryness in the throat is induced, or as the pupils exhibit enlargement. Local applications are also highly endorsed, the medicine, it being affirmed, having the same action whether applied directly or given internally,—that is, diminishing the calibre of capillaries by its action on the vasomotor system of nerves. Still another means, one described as specific, consists in the use of aconite tincture; five drops first to be administered, to adult, to be succeeded by two drops each two or three hours, if found necessary.*

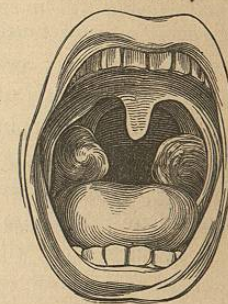
Sympathetic inflammation of the tonsil glands is not infrequent. Among the most common of such relations, and where a treatment must of necessity consider the influencing lesion, are croup, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, typhoid fever, and syphilis.

Glancing at the diagram, Fig. 379, which exhibits the glands in a state of partial engorgement, it is plainly seen that the isthmus, the oro-pharyngeal space, would be closed in proportion to an enlargement: hence difficulty experienced in deglutition and respiration. Tonsillitis ends in either resolution or suppuration.

When the inflammation is met with in its incipency, attempts are at

* The tincture of the leaves is one-half the strength of the tincture of the root; the medicine is to be used with caution.—See Dispensatory.

FIG. 379.



The Tonsil Glands.