SOCIETIES' PROCEEDINGS

THE SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE Seventy-Sixth Meeting of the Society was held in the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, on Saturday, May 24th, 1958. The President, Dr. F. T. Land was in the Chair.

Papers were given by Dr. I. Simson Hall on "Otosclerosis in Fragilitas Ossium", by Dr. A. Brownlie Smith on "The Pathology of a Case of Traumatic Deafness in a Child", and by Mr. J. C. Campbell on "Clinical Report on 300 cases of Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media who have undergone Endaural Mastoidectomy". A film showing fenestration, stapes mobilization and tympanoplasty was shown by Dr. Finlay Brown.

Sixteen cases were shown by Dr. I. M. Seex, and three by Dr. H. M. Urquhart. The following were of special interest.

Case II. *Trigeminal Neuralgia.* Miss D.C., aged 65, complained of lancinating pain over the left antrum. She had a left facial palsy of the lower neuron type, resulting from an accident in 1942. Nose and sinuses appeared healthy. There was a left-sided chronic suppurative otitis media. Trigeminal neuralgia affecting the second division of the Vth Nerve was diagnosed. On *5.8.57,* under hypotensive anæsthesia, the maxillary division of the Vth nerve was resected from the foramen rotundum, forwards to the infra-orbital foramen, by the trans-antral approach. To date the patient has had no further pain.

In the discussion, Dr. Simson Hall recalled seeing a similar case in a girl medical student, who developed trigeminal neuralgia following an accident. She was treated by posterior section, which was very successful to begin with, but the pain returned after 3 years. Dr. Seex said that he had done a number of these cases over the past 7 years by the trans-antral route, and did not experience the return of pain. One case, labelled as a neurotic had been operated on five years ago by dissection of the spheno-palatine ganglion, and had been free from pain since then.

Case III. *Pachydermia of the Vocal Cords.* A woman, aged 26 was first seen in *February, 1958,* complaining of loss of voice of six weeks' duration. Both vocal cords appeared thickened and covered with inflammatory exudate. X-ray of chest revealed no disease. Wassermann and Kahn reactions were negative. On direct laryngoscopy, the cords appeared irregular and ulcerated. Biopsy report stated "inflamed mucosa covered with hyperplastic squamous epithelium. This showed irregular thickening with elongation and fusion of rete processes. Moderately active mitosis was present. The surface was covered with necrotic keratinized debris and loosened cells, infiltrated with polymorphs. There was chronic inflammation of the deeper parts. There was no evidence

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of tumour, nor of specific type of inflammatory lesion". The patient was 8-months pregnant, and her mother suffered from a similar hoarseness during her pregnancy.

Dr. Seex thought that the diagnosis rested between a pseudo-malignant hyperplasia, an inflamed pachydermia or a pre-malignant lesion.

Dr. Simson Hall considered this to be an endocrine change. He had seen several such cases in the Simpson Memorial Hospital, Edinburgh. The hoarseness cleared up after the pregnancy.

Dr. Finlay Brown thought that the condition might be allergic, similar to the allergic rhinitis which often occurred in pregnancy.

Case XV. *Trans-antral Ethmoidectomy.* A man, aged 76, was first seen in *November, 1953,* with bilateral nasal polypi, allergic nasal mucosa, and opacity of antra and ethmoids to X-ray. There was a history of severe asthma of several years' duration. A resection of the septum was performed, together with bilateral radical antrostomy and trans-antral ethmoidectomy. This was followed by a course of nasal ionization. No further asthma to date has been noted.

Mr. Weir congratulated Dr. Seex, and asked what his indications were for such widespread surgery. *Dr. Seex,* in reply, said that most cases of asthma were primarily due to nasal allergy. Most of them have thickened or polypoid mucosa, or even associated sepsis. It is necessary to do meticulous surgery, clear out the antra completely, and then give ionization to reduce the allergy. He had treated 100 consecutive cases on these lines, with a large percentage of cures. In the past, results had not been obtained due to X-ray films being wrongly reported as clear. In the past 16 years he had come to the conclusion that the more radical the treatment, the better the chances of cure.

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