"Purulent Catarrh of the Accessory Nasal Cavities," *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Reports*, 1894 and 1895.

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We are greatly favoured by being able to reproduce an admirable likeness of the subject of these remarks taken by Messrs. Russell, of Baker Street, London, W., the cliché having been placed at our disposal by the publishers of the *British Medical Journal*.

CASEOUS RHINITIS.[1]

By John Bark, F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Miss M. L. D——, aged twenty-four years, of Holywell, North Wales, consulted me on October 15, 1903, and stated that she had been suffering for about two years from a yellow discharge from the left nostril, and that for the last twelve months that side had also been stopped up, and lumps of a yellowish-white material of very offensive odour had passed after syringing with a warm solution of salt and water. She complained also that her taste and smell had been deficient for about the same time.

On anterior rhinoscopy I found the left nasal cavity filled with a putty-like, caseous material, difficult to remove, and leaving the mucosa red and congested, the slightest touch with the probe causing free bleeding. While removing this material by means of the scoop and by syringing the odour was most sickly, almost fæcal in character. On the right side there was a slight purulent rhinitis.

After removal, the left nasal fossa was found to be much more roomy than normal, resembling very closely the condition in atrophic rhinitis after thorough removal of the crusts; the lower and middle turbinals were atrophied, probably owing to the continued pressure; and an uninterrupted view of the posterior wall of the naso-pharynx was easily and clearly obtained.

I prescribed Dobell's solution as a spray, and a rapid improvement is taking place, no caseous material having formed since.

Rhinitis caseosa is a very rare nasal condition, and the etiology of the disease has not yet been settled. Duplay and Follin

[1] Communicated to the British Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Association, November 13, 1903.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300173834 Published online by Cambridge University Press

(*Pathologie Externe*, vol. iii., p. 806) were the first to describe and define the malady as follows: "An accumulation within the nasal cavities of a cheesy substance analogous to that contained in certain sebaceous cysts, which may form in sufficient quantity to deform the face and lead to loss of smell."

Writers, however, are very much at variance as to the nature of this affection. Cozzolino considers it a sequel to scrofula, Duplay an epithelial exfoliation. Borier (Congrès de Chirurgie, Paris, October, 1879) believes that it is a retrograde or necrobiotic process of old polypoid masses, produced by the influence of the compression which these masses undergo in the nasal fossæ. Massei (*Arch. Ital. di Laryngologie*, April, 1896) is of opinion that three elements are necessary for the production of caseous rhinitis: (1) An abundant purulent secretion in the nose; (2) an obstacle to its free issue; (3) the presence of *Streptothrix alba*, which finds a favourable soil for its germination.

Cozzolino (*Boll. del. Malattie*, etc., 1884) reported three cases, and his examination of the caseous material showed the composition to be the following: (1) "Fatty material, with crystals of margarine and stearin; (2) epithelial cells; (3) circular black bodies (*Aspergillus niger*); (4) white corpuscles; (5) microbes."

Beausoleil (*Revue de Laryngologie*, etc., April 15, 1893) reported two cases, with polypoid projections in both.

Strazza (*Boll. del. Malattie*, 1891) and Neumann (*Virchow's Archives*, vol. v., p. 132) have each recorded cases. Neumann states the substance removed by him consisted altogether of cholestearin.

Many other cases have been recorded, notably by Cimmino, P. McBride, Wm. Hill, and Kayser of Breslau. Some of these cases showed tumours of granulation tissue embedded in the cheesy masses. In Dr. Wm. Hill's case there was a rhinolith present, but all were unilateral, and in all there was suppuration from some cause or other.

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https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755146300173834 Published online by Cambridge University Press