ABNORMAL STYLOID PROCESS CAUSING TONSIL IRRITATION.

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Miss C. D—, aged twenty-three, consulted me on October 15, 1914, complaining of "pressure in the left side of the throat." She described it as the feeling of a "bone" in the throat, and stated that she had been troubled with it for some ten or twelve years. There was also some fulness in the left ear. On examination the tonsils appeared normal, but there were remains of adenoids in the fossæ of Rosenmüller and some thickening in the left lateral wall of the pharynx. These remains of adenoids were cleared away under gas on November 16 without, however, relieving the original symptoms, except those referred to the ear. On November 28 she saw me again and described her original symptoms more fully. These amounted to actual pain about the tonsil and difficulty in producing the singing voice, as she feared to sound a high note on account of the discomfort so experienced. She placed her finger on the left tonsil to show me the exact site of the discomfort. On palpation a bony projection, apparently buried in the lower pole of the left tonsil, was distinctly to be felt. This projection was pointed, and situated just behind the ramus of the jaw. The possibility of a long and abnormally curved styloid process occurred to me, and an operation was decided upon.

On December 8 the patient was anæsthetised in the sitting position by Dr. Howard Jones, and the left tonsil was dissected out. A projecting point of bone was thus laid bare which was evidently the incurved end of a long styloid process. This was reduced with punch forceps in three pieces, about three quarters of an inch in all being removed. The patient made an uneventful recovery. Since the operation all the symptoms complained of have completely disappeared, and the singing voice has greatly improved alike in production and compass.

My object in publishing this case is that I am unaware of any such abnormality having been diagnosed beforehand and a special operation devised for its relief.

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