Societies' proceedings

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 100TH MEETING OF THE SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The one-hundreth meeting of the Scottish Otolaryngological Society was held in the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, on Saturday 30 May 1970. Mr. C. D. Weir, the president, was in the chair.

The occasion was marked by a change in the form of the meeting which started in the morning with the presentation of cases by Dr. J. D. Tevendale and Dr. I. S. Chowdhry and in the afternoon the cases were discussed, followed by the business meeting. A paper entitled 'Experiments with Incus Homografts' was read by Dr. Paul Van Den Broek of Amsterdam.

A series of cases of carcinoma of larynx were shown illustrating various aspects of the disease and its treatment and one of these occurred in an aged Malayan, the initial treatment being by radiotherapy. It recurred and laryngectomy was carried out.

The problem then arose of what to do for his lack of voice as he did not achieve oesophageal speech possibly because of his age and language difficulties. A discussion developed on the use of throat vibrators in such cases and Dr. McKinlay considered that the Western Electric, which was an older type, had given excellent results, producing a noise rather like steam escaping from a steam engine with a rather rough voice. He thought it was no longer available but he understood that the Ministry of Health were looking into one which is made in Birmingham, an up-to-date model called the Mini-Electron Vox. Dr. Alan Gibb said that he had two vibrators supplied during the last year to patients through the National Health Service. One of these was to a patient who was really totally unintelligible without it and with it, now that he is used to it, he can carry on a normal conversation and is really quite striking. This was a Servox, made in Germany and was re-charged through the mains. Sometimes they do produce Dalek-type voices, and they can be supplied through the National Health Service although they do not officially say so. The President supported the Western Electric from his experience, but Dr. Maran suggested the use of the Asai technique in operating on such cases.

A series of cases of stapedectomy were shown, illustrating some of the problems arising and the methods used to deal with them. Dr. Chowdhry showed a case of severe deafness associated with fragilitas ossium which had been rejected for fenestration in 1957 because of poor cochlear reserve. He used a very slim teflon piston after making a small hole in the footplate so as to reduce the work done there to the minimum and got a good result. Other cases showed defects in the long process of incus and super-structure of stapes due to a variety of causes.

Dr. Tevendale showed a case where C.S.F. otorrhoea had occurred from the left ear following a traffic accident, and this patient had then developed stenosis

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of the external auditory meatus. At operation, the stenosis was found to be mainly due to soft tissue obstruction rather than bony block. In the discussion of this case, Mr. McGillivary and Mr. Russell stressed the importance of enlarging the meatus to make a big hole in these cases of meatal stenosis to avoid recurrence and Mr. Russell advocated the use of a split skin graft on a stent mould to the meatus, the eardrum and adjacent cuff of skin being left alone.

A case of Tullio phenomenon in a riveter was shown and the symptoms in his case were preceded by sudden loss of hearing in one ear with vertigo lasting for several days when working in noisy conditions. Dr. Land recalled a railway workman aged 60 years who had normal ears apart from the fact that he became quite giddy when near a loud sound such as squealing brakes and, this, one could reproduce with the audiometer at fixed frequency. Another railway workman seen many years ago got the same effects from engine whistles and this could be produced experimentally.

A case of multiple laryngeal papillomata shown by Dr. Tevendale gave rise to a lot of discussion. Dr. Van Den Broek described his use of cryo-surgery in a few of these cases. Two very young children had tracheotomy, and at least fifteen surgical treatments before admission to his department. One child had been cured for about three years after about twenty treatments with cryo-surgery and the other child has been free now for one and a half years but had taken about two and a half years treatment to clear the condition. Some other children had also been treated and though the therapy was not miraculous, it has the distinction that it will not damage the normal tissues. A special laryngeal probe is used. Dr. Christie said that these cases tended to clear up at puberty. He and Dr. McKinlay described the occurrence of malignancy with secondary spread in one case.

A total of 20 cases were included in the demonstration.

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