SOCIETIES' PROCEEDINGS

THE SCOTTISH OTOLARYNGOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE 78th meeting of the Society was held on Saturday, 9th May, 1959, in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. The President, Mr. T. O. Howie, was in the chair.

Dr. Simson Hall showed two groups of cases. One group consisted of two cases showing the results of the vein-graft operation after the manner of John Shea, Junior, of Tennessee, with illustrative audiograms. In answer to various questions Dr. Hall described what he considered to be the indications for the operation at present, namely that it was appropriate for those cases which were considered unsuitable for fenestration and where stapes mobilization had failed. He also discussed some details of technique.

The second group of cases, shown in conjunction with Dr. G. D. McDowell and Dr. Waldeck, illustrated the use of polythene prostheses in the reconstruction of the ossicular chain, and were accompanied by audiograms showing the improvement obtained. In answer to questions Dr. Waldeck described various ways in which the prostheses were used depending on the state of affairs in the middle ear.

Dr. J. P. Stewart presented a case of nerve deafness due to Rh-factor incompatibility in a child of seven years who had had an exchange blood transfusion after birth. Audiometric tests showed the deafness with a gradual decline to 70 per cent. loss in the higher frequencies. Drs. R. B. Lumsden and D. J. Brain showed a representative group of six cases of Ménière's Disease, treated with ultra-sound by Arslan's method, and several aspects of the method were discussed by the Meeting. It was pointed out by Dr. Brain that in the earlier cases a proportion of the patients suffered from vertigo after treatment, possibly due to under-dosage. In two patients the disease developed later in the untreated ear, and treatment of the second side was contemplated in the near future. The importance of not neglecting ordinary medical measures such as salt and fluid limitation was stressed by Dr. E. A. M. Connal and other speakers.

Dr. A. Brownlie Smith showed three cases to demonstrate a variety of methods of performing tympanoplasties, with or without the cutting of a meatal flap when mastoidectomy was required, and with the use of skin grafts from the arm or by Wüllstein's method from the posterior surface of the auricle. Dr. Smith also showed two patients who had developed cartilage necrosis following irradiation of the larynx. Both were alive and well nearly four years after, though one had complete laryngeal obstruction and a tracheotomy. In the discussion which ensued the question was raised of whether or not a laryngectomy was the best procedure for such cases, especially from the point of view of whether the patient with complete loss of laryngeal function would thereby learn œsophageal speech more easily. Several other interesting cases of laryngeal disease were presented and gave rise to lively discussion.

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Dr. J. P. Stewart showed a case of epidermolysis bullosa dystrophica with œsophageal involvement. There was ulceration of the lips and mouth with numerous skin lesions, and when the patient complained of difficulty in swallowing ulceration and stricture were found in the postcricoid region. He stressed the extreme rarity of the condition as a skin disease itself, and involvement of the œsophagus appeared to be unique. Dr. Brownlie Smith showed a case of amyloid disease of the pharynx presenting as a raised, whitish area with a waxy appearance on the posterior pharyngeal wall which was a little more extensive than when first seen but gave rise to no symptoms.

Three types of simple growth of the frontal sinus, were presented by Dr. I. M. Farquharson, one being a definite mucocele, the second showing evidence of a soft tissue mass arising from the upper region of the ethmoid to extend into the frontal sinus, and the third showing a multilocular cystic lesion involving the frontal sinus and suggestive of a giant cell tumour. The discussion here centred round the differential diagnosis of these cases.

During the course of the meeting Mr. A. Finlay Brown showed two films of aural surgery and one of carcinoma of the larynx. The films were in colour on 8 mm. stock with sound, and gave us instructive indication to those interested in film technique of the potentialities of this small and economical gauge. The films on the ear showed the following operations through the microscope; Lempert's fenestration, Wüllstein's fenestration, Rosen's method of mobilizing the footplate and various types of tympanoplasty. The film on the larynx showed several diseases, such as hyperkeratosis, polypi and chronic laryngitis, and also a two year follow up series of carcinoma of various parts of the larynx treated by megavoltage or by the Finzi-Harmer method. Mr. Brown has stated that these films are available to anyone who would like to borrow them for teaching purposes.

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