

never undergoing any change or degeneration. With adults the inconvenience it produces is comparatively slight, but with children, by impeding respiration, and thus preventing a full column of air entering the chest, the development of the frame is retarded or arrested, at the same time the enlarged tonsils may compress the Eustachian tubes, and cause a species of deafness, which is occasionally observed in young children laboring under this hypertrophy. Another inconvenience resulting, besides the necessity of sleeping with the mouth open, and producing an unpleasant noise while sleeping, is the great tendency to local inflammation caused by the enlargement of the tonsils.

The use of tonics, bitters, &c., of iodine internally and externally, and of mild soothing applications, have failed in reducing the enlarged tonsil. The topical use of astringent, stimulating, or styptic gargles, or the direct application of caustic, as the nitrate of silver, sulphate of copper, or alum, has been more successful, but it frequently fails altogether. It should be had recourse to only when an operation is refused.

The actual cautery was never held in very high estimation, but the ligature had many partisans, and different instruments were used for its application—a task of considerable difficulty, as the tonsil, when enlarged, does not present a pedicle like a polypus; on the contrary, the base is larger than the apex. Laceration of the tonsil—that is, seizing it with a hook or forceps, and tearing it, or slicing it with the bistoury or pharyngotome, has also been recommended. M. Girardin had recourse to scarifications, and with advantage; but though both these methods may effect a cure, the treatment will be longer, more inconvenient, and painful than that by excision, which ought consequently to be preferred.

A variety of instruments, in the shape of forceps, straight and curved scissors, bistouries, hooks, &c., have been invented for the excision of the tonsils, but they are perfectly useless; a double or single hook, and a common blunt-pointed bistoury are all that is required. A piece of cork placed between the molar teeth, and an assistant to depress the tongue with a spatula, will next be needed; but when the tonsil is hooked and drawn forwards, the patient will be constrained to keep the mouth open. In fact, by drawing on the tonsil, the os hyoides is raised, and the point d'appui of several of the maxillary muscles is removed. In this way the excision of the projecting portion of the hypertrophied tonsil can be readily effected, nor is there any necessity to follow the example of those surgeons who wrap up a part of the bistoury with a piece of rag, or else use an instrument, only a part of the blade of which can cut. There is not any organ which is endangered in the operation.—*Gazette des Hôpitaux*, July, 1842.

OBITUARIES.

At Rouen, M. Vigné, author of the treatise on "Apparent Death."

We also have to announce, with regret, the death of M. Hourmann, physician to the Female Venereal Hospital at Paris. M. Hourmann was a young physician of very high promise, and had recently received, as the reward of his labor, the decoration of the Legion of Honor. About twelve months ago he inoculated his finger with venereal matter, while dressing a woman laboring under syphilis; secondary symptoms set in; the bones of the head were attacked, and M. Hourmann sunk under the disease.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN LONDON.

Members admitted Friday, October 14, 1842.

T. Prat, J. Moore, H. D. Scholfield, J. Rhodes, W. Boyd, C. D. Telfair, J. L. Vickerman, J. I. Acheson, J. M. Best.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The cases of *Mr. Elliott*, *Mr. Allison*, and *Mr. Barrett*, shall appear next week.

We beg to decline the communication from *Liverpool*, on diseases of the extremities of bones. We are unwilling to divert our correspondent from the Journal which he has so ably assisted by his contributions, and which would feel his loss severely.

S. S. (Leeds).—The advertisement forwarded to us is an infamous attempt to impose some quack on the public under the name and with the titles of *Dr. Blundell*. The venerable professor never probably heard of the man or saw his advertisement.

Hospital Attendance.—The difficulty of compelling students to furnish certificates of three years' surgical and one year's medical hospital attendance, has induced the council of the college to reconsider their late regulations. We believe it very probable that the retrospective effect of these regulations will be rescinded.

Back Numbers.—In reply to several correspondents, we have again to state that the first twenty-five numbers of the "Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal" are out of print. The succeeding numbers may be ordered through any bookseller.

Student.—Many of the hospitals have reduced their fees, and at them the student can attend during three years for about £26. But in many other hospitals this regulation does not prevail, at least it does not so appear on their advertisements.

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