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Original Articles

THE DISEASED TONSIL AND ITS EFFECT UPON THE GENERAL SYSTEM.*

By W. P. CAVEN, M.D., TORONTO.

In the first place, I would like to draw attention to the influence that chronic enlargement of the tonsillar tissues, and in this I include the adenoid tissue in the vault of the pharynx, may have on both the mental and bodily development of children.

This is a subject of special interest to the general practitioner, as it is he who first has an opportunity of coming in contact with the conditions; and upon his thoroughly understanding these conditions and their proper treatment may depend the future mental and physical development of the child.

Hypertrophy of the tonsillar tissues is occasionally congenital, or the enlargement may follow diphtheria or the eruptive fevers. It may be part of the general hyperplasia of the lymphatic glands and lymph tissues (spleen, thymus, etc.) throughout the body, met with in the condition of lymphatism or Status Lymphaticus, a condition of special interest owing to the frequency of occurrence of sudden death from some apparently trivial cause. We are all familiar with the great risks of anesthetics here, either local or general, cases of sudden death in this condition have also been reported immediately after injection of antitoxin for diphtheria, and patients, the subjects of lymphatism, also seem to incur special risk of sudden death while bathing.

Pretauf believes that the subjects of this hyperplasia have

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