On Hæmorrhagic Cysts of the Thyroid Gland

deposits of modified blood pigment, or again of large cells containing the characteristic modified hæmoglobin.

In Plate XV, Fig. 2, is shown one of these hæmorrhages. The section was obtained from the upper part of the left lobe of the thyroid of a patient who died in the Royal Victoria Hospital some weeks after drinking a large dose of potash lye, taken apparently with suicidal intent. In the region indicated was a roughly spherical tumour, a little over two centimetres in diameter, of comparatively firm consistence and of a rich red colour. Sections through the tumour showed that the hæmorrhage, which must have been comparatively recent, inasmuch as the red corpuscles were in general well preserved, was limited in extent to one lobule of the organ. Around it was a well-defined margin, formed of the connective tissue separating the lobule containing it from the surrounding lobules. In the affected lobule not all the tissue was the seat of hæmorrhage, sundry follicles and the surrounding interstitial tissue being entirely free from extravasated blood (Plate XV, Fig. 2, d). But, in general, there was clearly marked evidence of hæmorrhage. The blood had passed into the vesicles, and also into the interstitial substance. Many of the vesicles were very greatly distended with blood, and presented a thin, flattened epithelium; in one place 'an area was clearly distinguishable where there had been rupture of a small vessel, with a pouring out of blood both into the follicle and into the interstitial tissue. It was interesting to notice that in many places follicles distended with blood could be recognised, around which there was not the slightest sign of interstitial hæmorrhage. The appearance suggested strongly that the follicles communicate with each other, and that hæmorrhage had taken place into the follicles of one or more communicating systems, while other systems had remained free. Whether such communication is normal or acquired I will not venture to state. In several of the sections the communications between the injected follicles could be recognised; they were undistinguishable from what might have been produced by pressure atrophy, though, at the same time, natural and not acquired communications might present a similar appearance.

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