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TREATMENT OF LARYNGEAL TUBERCULOSIS.*

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As laryngeal tuberculosis, in a vast majority of instances, is secondary to pulmonary tuberculosis, the systemic treatment is practically the same in each. Hence this branch of the subject having already been thoroughly discussed, I shall confine my remarks to topical treatment, together with a few words upon general, dietetic, and climatic considerations specially bearing upon the throat.

First of all, the voice should be spared as much as possible. Sudden changes of temperature should also be avoided, as well as dusty or irritating atmosphere. The use of tobacco should under any circumstances be limited. Alcohol, when taken at all, should be freely diluted, and rendered bland, to avoid the irritation which it otherwise might produce in the hyper-sensitive mucous membrane.

In reference to diet, it is well known that in this disease deglutition is often very painful, and in advanced cases, sometimes almost impossible. Hence, when irritation exists, all food should be demulcent, or of a soft character, and of a temperature suited to the palate of each individual case.

When ulceration exists, and the tissues are partially necrotic or destroyed, fluids are often difficult to swallow, the tendency for them to enter the imperfectly protected larynx being constantly present. To obviate this tendency, semi-solids or thick demulcent

* Read at a discussion upon Tuberculosis before the Toronto Medical Society, November, 1901.