

garded as modifications of the same disease, which is malignant or benign according to the predominance of the papillary or the follicular type.

Microscopic study teaches us that these follicular enlargements are not all specific, since they are simply exaggerations of the adenoid tissue of the conjunctiva which occur in many other conditions. These granulations should properly be regarded as a particular form of reaction of the conjunctiva to irritation of some sort. It may and does occur in trachoma, but is more pathognomonic than are the enlarged glands in the neck pathognomonic of syphilis or tuberculosis. These conjunctival glands may enlarge as the result of non-infectious irritation by chemicals, such as atropin, or by the continued irritation of foreign bodies, such as dust and smoke.

A sharp distinction should then be made between papillary trachoma, which cannot be too darkly painted, and the follicular type which, when pure, may result from several etiological factors is, as a rule, not at all contagious, and runs a very benign course. No such distinction has been made in our public school work, and we see children—occasionally only, it is true—with real infectious papillary trachoma allowed to mingle freely with other children on the playground and in school, so long as they are under treatment; while a very large number, who have a pure follicular type and are perfectly harmless, are treated as though they had a dangerous infectious disease.

Let us consider for a moment follicular trachoma as it appears in children in America. It is commonly attended with no subjective symptoms. It is the regular thing for both parents and children to attend the clinics with an aggrieved air, because an inspector or a nurse has accused the child of having a disease of which he has been entirely unconscious, and which would not have been discovered except by routine examination. This entire lack of subjective symptoms is in strongest possible contrast to the acute misery of a child with papillary trachoma. On eversion of the lids we find many of the pale, frog spawn granules, evidently below the surface of the conjunctiva, which though thrown into folds is often perfectly shiny and pale.