

giving advice to a sufferer from otosclerosis, as to whether he or she should have children, is the information derived from the genealogical trees. The worst prospect is where husband and wife both come of stocks in which otosclerosis is found. This is true even where either husband or wife is unaffected by deafness; and, what is still more remarkable, when even both are unaffected. In the latter case, it is very improbable that the physician will be consulted; and if he were, his advice not to have children would probably be disregarded. For it would be difficult to persuade either husband or wife, when both were unaffected by deafness, that there was any great risk of the symptoms occurring in the children.

The condition next in importance is when the wife is herself the subject of otosclerosis, and at the same time comes of a family in which there is a marked tendency to the disease. Under such circumstances there is considerable probability that some of the offspring will become deaf, but a still greater probability that most of them will escape.

When the husband is deaf, and comes of a family with a clear inherited tendency to the disease, the conditions are rather more favourable, the chance of otosclerosis appearing among the offspring being slightly less.

Lastly, when otosclerosis is present in either husband or wife, but there is no other evidence of the disease in either family discoverable over three generations, then the probability of the offspring being affected is slight. In these cases I think it is always wise to advise the individuals to accept the risk.