

ness impaired by what may now be a trifling, but curable, defect in some part of the upper respiratory passages, which also constitute the sounding-board in speech. When such a state of things is established, and permanent organic thickening exists, neither the popular trip to Florida, the south of France, &c., nor a consultation with a distinguished foreign specialist, will either cure the patient or remove from the family physician the blame that attaches to his neglect either to diagnose or have diagnosed for him the affection.

There is a lamentable and pernicious belief widely spread among the laity that nasal catarrh is a trifling affection, a sort of mild nuisance that it would be just as well to have abated, but which is not likely to lead to any serious consequences. Perhaps after it has existed for 5, 10 or 15 years the patient applies for relief, and expects to have it cured with all that readiness the quacks so glibly promise. But no! Nature is too just to herself, and will not be flattered into obliging either the patient or the quack. Parents often fail to seek relief for their children with nasal catarrh, enlarged tonsils, &c., from the belief that they will outgrow them. They may outgrow them, but generally they do not wholly, and more frequently, when they do outgrow the actual catarrh, it is to find that it has left a permanent and undesirable legacy of thickening of parts behind, upon the evils of which the limits of this paper will not allow me to enlarge. Would it not be well for family physicians to examine the nose, mouth and pharynx of the children of a family once or twice a year, even if no special complaint be made? It must be borne in mind, too, that these weaknesses are transmissible to offspring.

Occasionally the physician who sees much of throat and kindred affections is consulted by public speakers with complaint of a certain impairment of the voice. However they may individually express themselves as to the degeneration referred to, it is perceived, on listening to such cases, that the defect is due to obstruction of some kind *above the vocal cords*. Upon examination, the latter may be found nearly or quite healthy, but there is thickening or enlargement in some part of the path the sound takes on its way outward. This may be due to somewhat enlarged