

QUARTERLY RETROSPECT.

(DEPARTMENT FOR DISEASES OF THROAT AND NOSE.)

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

GEO. T. ROSS, M.D., Laryngologist to the Western Hospital,

Professor of Laryngology and Rhinology, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Bishop's College, Montreal.

Atrophic Rhinitis.—This almost incurable disease was the subject of a very exhaustive discussion at N. Y. Academy of Medicine in March last, when a symposium was given by various American physicians. The etiology of the disease is not yet satisfactorily solved, as is evident when various authors endeavor to support as many theories as were brought forward on the occasion referred to. Bosworth has for the past twenty years maintained that the disease is a development from the purulent rhinitis of childhood, and as far as my own experience goes I have found in many cases, upon strict enquiry, that this theory is well supported by evidence.

The declaration of Jonathan Hutchison, that inherited syphilis was an etiological factor in every case of atrophic rhinitis, was shown by Wright to be ill founded, while it was admitted that, although many cases have a syphilitic basis, yet all of them have not. Gerber's cases were quoted to show that both syphilis and rachitis were frequently important factors.

The importance of recognising functional collapse of the nasal tissues from atrophic rhinitis was shown by Clarence Rice. Some of the points of difference are as follows:—Functional collapse is not often seen before young adult life, when the effects of combined malnutrition begin to be noticeable, while atrophic rhinitis may often be seen in children at the age of ten. Collapse without atrophy is seen in the poorer classes, or at least with people living in bad hygienic state, and true atrophy in people of any class. Anemia and debility seen in collapse is not necessarily seen in atrophic rhinitis. In the simple dry nose of anemia we find a mucous membrane all shades of palor such as we would expect, but smooth, pressed down tightly on the turbinals which retain their contour, while in atrophic rhinitis, if the patient is well