

You have had clearly set forth before you, the anatomy of this nerve; you have learned its place of origin; of its two roots; of its ganglion; of its course and relations; of its size; of its divisions, and of its distribution. You have acquired a knowledge of this nerve in a state of nature. It becomes my duty to endeavour to present to you certain facts relative to those changes which may take place in this nerve, in respect to its structure and function. These changes may exist at any point, all along the course of the nerve, from its origin to the most remote distribution. These morbid changes may arise in the substance of the nerve trunk, or in some one or more, of the adjacent tissues, with which the nerve trunk and its branches are in contact and relationship.

A Pathological state may be hereditary, or it may be acquired; it may be produced during the period of growth and development; or it may be the accompaniment of later years.

The nerve may cease to grow—its supply of nourishment may be cut off, or its integrity otherwise be injured. On the contrary, the nerve may attain to an unusual size, being fed with an undue amount of pabulum. After having attained to its full development, it may still become atrophied, or on the contrary hypertrophied.

This nerve, in common with other tissues, is subject to injury—to wounds and to crushing. Inflammation may arise in its substance, or extend to it by contiguity; and, then all of the results of inflammatory action may follow, both immediate and remote. A wound, by dividing the nerve trunk will cause paralysis, so may effusion from inflammation, by encroaching upon the nerve. Suppuration may ensue, as well as morbid thickening. Ulceration, that is, molecular death may likewise follow, or perhaps even gangrene.

Again, a morbid fibrous growth may present itself in connection with the nerve, having its origin in the nerve tissue or upon the nerve, constituting a neuroma, or the tumor may be in the tooth pulp;—sometimes like a polypus it sprouts through a cavity caused by caries or an accident to the enamel.

The morbid condition may reside in the adjoining structures.—Tumours of various kinds may grow so as to impinge upon the nerve. These tumours may be analogous, that is, like some natural tissue of the body, or heterologous, or unlike any of the natural tissues. Tracing the trifacial to the many periphery, many forms of diseased action may be seen to interfere with the well-being of the nerve. The