

ÆROPHAGIA (Gr. *ἀήρ*, air; *φαγῖν*, to devour).

Nervous eructations and belchings of gas. They may occur in attacks lasting a few hours or days. A considerable part of the gas is believed to be atmospheric air which has been swallowed. The symptom may be observed in cases of neurasthenia and of hysteria.

AGEUSIA (Gr. *ἀ*, privative; *γεῦσις*, taste).

Deficiency in acuteness of the sense of taste, or its complete abolition (ageusia), is most frequently caused by affections of the tongue or mouth, and by conditions which impair the sense of smell. It is less frequently due to disease of the trigeminal or glosso-pharyngeal nerves, or of their central connections. Facial paralysis is often accompanied by partial and one-sided ageusia (hemiageusia), owing to implication of the chorda tympani.

AGRAPHIA (Gr. *ἀ*, privative; *γράφω*, to write).

The inability to write, either spontaneously or from dictation. The defect is the result of a lesion involving the cortical centres presiding over written and spoken speech (see Speech Disorders, p. 373).

AKORIA (Gr. *ἀ*, privative; *κόρος*, satiety).

An insatiable and morbid hunger, often combined with a perverted desire for unwholesome or unsuitable substances as food. It may occur in diabetes, in hysteria, in idiocy, or in dementia (see Appetite, p. 35).

ALAR CHEST (Pterygoid Chest).

A characteristic form or subtype of chest, in which the shoulders slope excessively, the neck is long, and the scapulæ project backwards. An exaggerated obliquity of the ribs, with consequent diminished capacity of the thorax, is the chief feature in the condition (see p. 468).

ALBUMINURIA.

The tests best suited for the practitioner in examining the urine or albumin are described in the article on Urinary Examination