

The Canada Lancet

VOL. XLII.

NOVEMBER, 1908.

No. 3.

EXOPHTHALMIC GOITRE.*

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IN the study of such a subject as Exophthalmic Goitre it would be impossible in the time allotted to me to any more than briefly touch upon the many aspects of this remarkable disease.

The condition was first described by Sir Robt. J. Graves, of Dublin, in the year 1835. The clinical picture which he paints for us is as true to-day as it was then. Let us imagine for a moment Graves in the wards of his Dublin Hospital with his class of students about him the patient is seated on a chair or in bed as the case may be, and as we conjure up this picture let us carry our imagination a little further and listen to him as he describes the case in these his own words:—Here is a young lady, aged 20, who became affected with some symptoms which were supposed to be hysterical. This occurred more than two years ago. Her health previously had been good. After she had been in this nervous state for about three months, it was observed that her pulse had become singularly rapid. This rapidity existed without any apparent cause and was constant, the pulse being never under 120 and often much higher. She next complained of weakness on exertion and began to look pale and thin. Thus she continued a year but during this time she manifestly lost ground on the whole. The rapidity of her heart's action never ceased. It was now observed that the eyes assumed a singular appearance for the eyeballs were apparently enlarged so that when she slept or tried to close her eyes the lids were incapable of closing. When the eyes were open the white sclerotic could be seen to a breadth of several lines all around the cornea. In a few months the action of the heart continuing with unceasing violence a tumor of a horseshoe shape appeared in the front of the throat and exactly in the situation of the thyroid gland. This was at first soft but soon attained a greater hardness though still elastic. From the time it was at first observed it has increased but little, if at all, in size, and is now about thrice the natural bulk of the fully developed gland in a female at the age of puberty. It is somewhat larger in the right than in the left. Discussing the case further Dr. Graves says: The enlargement of the gland of which I am now speaking seems to be essentially different from goitre in not attaining a size at all equal to that observed in the latter disease. Indeed this enlargement deserved rather the name of hypertrophy and is at once distinguished

* Read at the Post Graduate Course in the Orthopedic Hospital, Toronto, 17th Oct., 1903.