

from adhesions of the pillars, or extensive thickening of them, due either to ulcerative inflammation or the incautious use of caustics; and here permit me to refer to the extensive use of strong caustics, in former years at least, and, it would seem, during the acute stage of tonsillitis and pharyngitis. Such treatment, even with nitrate of silver in strong solution or the solid form, is very apt to entail permanent weakness of the throat, which may even extend in its effects to the larynx. I have seen a subacute laryngitis caused by the application of the nitrate of silver to the pharynx when none of it dropped into the larynx, and in all cases the use of this remedy should be preceded by testing its toleration by touching only a small portion of the diseased part. Dr. Solis Cohen of Philadelphia has made a similar observation.

Another lesson is strongly impressed by a case which forms but one of many. A public speaker lost his voice, or nearly so, and regained it under rest and treatment, the laryngoscope never having been used; he again lost it, and completely, being quite unable to speak except in a whisper. He was treated by several physicians, none of them having seen the vocal cords, till he fell into the hands of the President of this Society, who used the laryngoscope, and having discovered the condition of his larynx, very kindly passed the patient on to me for treatment. This man has a large growth on one of his cords, and may never recover useful voice, but if his condition had been discovered early, a small growth might have proved but a minor matter. Should we not lay down the rule that in all cases of aphonia and all cases of hoarseness or other impairment of voice lasting longer than ten days, the diagnosis should be made by the laryngoscope? And if an ordinary examination does not suffice, let all the skill and care that we can command be brought to bear on the case.

It will be concluded, from the tenor of my paper, that I call attention to alterations of voice chiefly as *suggestive* in the diagnosis. There are cases, however, occurring every now and then in which the diagnosis is difficult, and every help is needful. Let me conclude this paper by illustrating this by a case for which I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Gurd.