

The neck becomes stiff and painful early, with tenderness along the anterior margin of the sterno-mastoid muscle on the left side, where, by the third or fourth day, the glands at the margin and underneath the middle of the muscle are found tender and enlarged. There may be slight redness of the fauces, but no swelling, and the redness soon disappears. The head is held rigidly. After three or four days the swelling of the glands begins to diminish. By this time those on the right side become enlarged and may in a day or two reach a size as large as that attained by those on the left side. There may be marked tenderness in the abdomen and the mesenteric glands may be found enlarged. The liver is enlarged in the great majority of cases and the spleen in more than half. The other cervical, the axillary and the inguinal glands may be affected. The disease runs a benign course, rarely terminating fatally, but the child is left in an anæmic state from which it may take some weeks to recover.

Even were the history of the affection more marked it would not be sufficient to prove it a specific disease. To do that it will be necessary first to find its specific cause. The bacteriology of it has not yet been studied. There is much difference of opinion as to the pathological basis on which the symptoms depend. It has been suggested that there is infection by an "attenuated" streptococcus through the tonsils. This, if true, renders the view that the affection is an acute specific one untenable. As the mesenteric glands are often swollen it has been thought that possibly absorption takes place by the intestine. The early affection of the left cervical gland led Koplik to suggest the thoracic duct as the seat of absorption. Even if it were it is scarcely clear why the left cervical glands should be earliest invaded as they are not in the track of the lymph currents from the duct.

On the whole the pharynx seems the most likely avenue by which the poison gains access to the system, but it may possibly be absorbed by other parts. That it is infectious can scarcely be doubted from its limited epidemic character, its constitutional effects, its uniform course, its benign history, the invariable disappearance of the glandular tumefaction without suppuration, the marked anæmia and rather protracted convalescence.

Of recent papers on the subject the most important are those by Park West, who reports ninety-six cases occurring in Eastern Ohio, in the years 1893 to 1896, and* by Dawson Williams† who reports three cases occurring in one family. In those reported by West, the

*Archives of Pediatrics, December, 1896.

†Lancet, London, January 16, 1897.