

middle line. Both were removed by Mackenzie's Tonsillotome at one sitting, the operation occupying not more than one minute. All the symptoms disappeared at once.

Should tonsils be removed when acutely inflamed? On this subject there is some diversity of opinion. As a rule, in my own opinion, they should not; but to this there is one exception. When tonsils have become somewhat, though not much, enlarged, and are subject to repeated attacks of follicular inflammation, their glandular structure is largely, if not wholly, destroyed; they are foreign bodies, and nothing can restore the functions of the superficial parts—at least, I see no reason why a portion of such tonsils should not be removed, for, on the slightest provocation, they take on inflammation. But until they are inflamed, they do not protrude sufficiently beyond the edges of the pillars of the fauces to allow of a neat and otherwise satisfactory operation. Operating during the acute attack seems justifiable and desirable in such cases.

How should the operation of Tonsillotomy be performed? Not with a bistoury, unless in the most exceptional cases. The dangers that belong to the operation are *the dangers of the bistoury*. There is an amount of dread on the part of the patient, and of anxiety on the part of the practitioner, which a suitable instrument reduces to a minimum. The instrument which to me seems vastly superior to all others is Mackenzie's Tonsillotome. It offers so many advantages that it seems to be almost perfect. It is strong; it can be kept sharp; it is easy to place in position; by it the amount to be excised can be definitely regulated by a practiced hand; it is swift of action; it acts as a gag to keep the mouth open; and it is free from the risk of causing serious hemorrhage, at least by opening the carotid. Velpeau reports four fatal cases from opening the carotid, but in all these the knife was used; and it has been asserted that it would be impossible to cut the carotid with Mackenzie's instrument. There are different sizes of the tonsillotome; but two, a very small one for children and a large one, will answer almost every purpose. Another advantage, and an important one, that may be claimed for this instrument is, that it cuts away the whole zone of tonsil