

ourselves and our patients, a good deal of our procedure rests as yet on no strictly scientific basis. But in one part of the domain of medicine, during the laryngoscopic period, a good deal has been done in the direction indicated, and to the throat specialist almost entirely the credit of this advance in our knowledge is due. I regret that I have little knowledge of what the voice may teach in disease in general out of the region now referred to—so little, indeed, that I shall make no attempt to speak of it, but hope that the above suggestions may not be fruitless with those whose opportunities for observation in this direction are larger than mine; I shall therefore call attention in this paper only to the voice as it relates to diseases of the air passages.

The ear, like its neighbour the eye, has a great capacity for discrimination when trained and urged to observation, but it has also an equally marked faculty for neglect, inadvertance. It often acts when roused by the eye to observe, and a physician's diagnosis frequently depends on this latter fact. When the eye has observed an actual lesion, the ear seems to perceive with double distinctness the alteration of voice dependent on the condition present. Sometimes, for example, a pair of enlarged tonsils alters the voice in a moderate degree; upon opening the patient's mouth, and seeing them, the change seems then of a most decided character. This may be owing in part to psychological laws, but it is largely due to failure to cultivate the ear systematically in observing medical cases. Any one can observe, if he be not deaf, that marked muffling of the voice approaching extinction which is often present in acute tonsillitis, but it requires much more acuteness and discrimination to lead the observer to suspect the existence of a couple of slightly enlarged tonsils, nasopharyngeal growths, or moderate thickening of the nasal mucous membrane; but such cases frequently occur. The patient may not have noticed it, the friends, even the mother, that acute observer of defects as well as perfections in the offspring, may have failed to observe the difference, so gradual may have been the change; but none the less surely may that youth, destined for the pulpit, the bar, or the legislative hall, and the daughter with natural beauty, have their prospects diminished and useful-