

## CHRONIC INFECTIVE CONDITIONS 17

obturator may be fitted by a dentist to diminish to some extent the discomfort of the condition.

### TUBERCLE.

Tuberculosis of the pharynx is a somewhat rare affection, and is generally secondary to pulmonary or laryngeal phthisis. In the earlier stages, discrete shallow lenticular ulcers appear on the pharynx; they are covered with a dirty grey deposit, and remain shallow, though they spread superficially until finally the whole posterior wall of the pharynx may present an ulcerated surface, covered with grey secretion, and from which pale granulations project. There is no surrounding area of congestion, and pain and dysphagia, which are generally absent in syphilis, are marked features. These characteristics should make it possible to distinguish tuberculous from syphilitic ulceration. In doubtful cases, a portion of tissue may be removed from the edge of the ulcer by means of a conchotome, for microscopic examination. If the tissue is tuberculous, characteristic giant-cell systems and areas of caseation may be found, but it is difficult to demonstrate the presence of tubercle bacilli. As an alternative, the blood may be examined for Wassermann's reaction, which will be positive in the case of syphilis; or von Pirquet's cutaneous reaction may be tried. If the latter is positive, it shows that there is some tuberculous lesion in the body; but if negative, no conclusion can be drawn.

**PROGNOSIS.**—This is very grave, and the treatment is mainly palliative. The effect of tuberculin injections may be tried, but they are hardly likely to prove beneficial in such advanced and serious manifestations of this disease. The ulcers may be painted with lactic acid, beginning with a 20 per cent solution and gradually increasing the strength to 60 per cent; previous to this, the ulcerated area may be curetted. The symptom which especially requires treatment is the dysphagia, and this may usually be relieved by the insufflation of equal parts of orthoform and anæsthesin a quarter of an hour before meals; or if this fails, a solution of cocaine (5 per cent) may be sprayed on the throat.

### LUPUS.

This is an exceedingly chronic and painless affection which somewhat rarely attacks the fauces; it is usually associated with lupus of the face and nose. The palate and tonsils are the