

Hence, the evils which hypertrophy of the lingual tonsil give rise to are chiefly of a local character. They consist of a feeling of swelling at the base of the tongue, the presence of mucus in the throat, the sensation of a foreign body in the glosso-epiglottic notch, and disturbance of the normal voice—the last-mentioned being particularly noticeable in the case of singers and speakers.

This category of symptoms and effects, which owe their existence in so large a degree to the presence of hypertrophy in the various segments of the pharyngeal tonsillar ring, clearly indicate the advisability of eliminating, as far as possible, this element in the etiology of disease. While we recognize the fact that these tonsils are in some way necessary to the proper and efficient development of the individual, that they perform some function in the animal economy, no matter how obscure that function may be, we at the same time realize that when hypertrophied they introduce an element of danger that distinctly threatens the well-being and sometimes the life of the patient, and that it is our duty to relieve him of the onus of unnecessary risk.