

# THE CANADA LANCET,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCE,  
CRITICISM AND NEWS.

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Medical Journal in Canada.

## Original Communications.

### PAPILLOMA OF THE TONSILS\*

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Maggie S., aged ten years, entered the Hospital for Sick Children here on the 4th of May, 1892, complaining of her throat. Her mother who brought her from Collingwood, gave the following history:

At eight years of age she (*i.e.*, her mother) noticed the enlarged tonsils accidentally one day when the child was crying from toothache. They were then quite large. Since then they have gradually increased in size. There have been no acute attacks of any throat trouble during either of these years. And yet the mother remembers that when the child was two or three years of age she had several attacks of so-called "acute sore throat." This tendency to sore throat disappeared after she was about four years old.

When she was about seven years of age her mother was told by her physician that she had *goître*.

Within the last year her facial expression has changed somewhat; she appears duller and more listless and is slightly deaf. Her voice is changed, and she speaks as though she had a hot potato in her mouth. There is also considerable difficulty in swallowing. Her general health is fairly good.

Her mother reminded me of the fact that she had been under my care in the old hospital six years ago. At that time she came in for a lipomatous tumor of the side of the neck just above the clavicle and shoulder, and which I removed after cautious and deep dissection. The wound was a large one, requiring some sixty or seventy sutures. From this she made a good recovery,

and now only an indistinct scar marks the site of a former large wound.

*Present condition.*—Well-marked enlargement of either lobe of the thyroid gland, excessive enlargement of both tonsils, which are studded with closely packed papillary bodies, and, as a consequence, difficulty in swallowing, deafness, alteration in the voice, and also in the expression.

The tonsils literally filled the throat. One could scarcely believe that any food could be forced past them, so large were they, and so completely did they obstruct the fauces. They were rough and ragged in appearance at first glance. On closer inspection, however, the rough appearance was seen to be made up of numberless papillæ or pedunculated masses, packed closely together and extending downwards as far as one could see or feel with the finger. They also bulged so far forward as to hide the uvula completely and rest on the base of the tongue. There was very little sensation in them, and, bulging as far forward as they did, there was no difficulty in palpating them. Each papilloma seemed to have a separate and distinct entity. Some had a very small pedicle, others larger, but none sessile. So large and so closely packed were these papillæ that one could not help wondering at her being able to swallow at all. While she could swallow fluids if taken very slowly, there was also difficulty in the deglutition of solids. The solid particles appeared to get tangled up in the papillæ and would only pass on down after repeated efforts at swallowing. With such masses in her throat it is not to be wondered at that there was some difficulty in hearing and speaking. The change in her facial expression was, I suppose, due to her deafness and constantly keeping her mouth open.

The tonsils were so utterly unlike anything I ever saw before that I delayed doing anything whatever for her in order to allow all the members of the staff and several other medical friends to see her at their leisure. The *size*, as well as the *appearance*, was something *unique*. In fact, the case was a "*rara avis*" to each and every one of us who saw her.

That a better idea of the size and appearance of the tonsils might be formed, I asked the photographer to the hospital (a professional) to photograph them. He made a number of attempts to do so, both at the hospital and his studio, but

\*Published also in *N. Y. Med. Jour.*