

to do harm. Tennis and cricket are not likely to be attended with much risk, nor is golf.

In choosing a business or profession, the individuals of a family in which there is any tendency to otosclerosis should be careful. In the first place, the calling should be such that, should deafness occur later in life, it would not be fatal to the pursuance of the calling. I have known cases among barristers, medical men, and stockbrokers in which disaster followed because this point was not taken into consideration. In another case the father of a young man put him into the stockbroking profession against my advice, his mother and several of her brothers and sisters being subjects of otosclerosis. He had to give up his profession three years later, owing to commencing deafness.

In the second place, the profession chosen should be such that overwork and worry are as far as possible avoided; the same must be said with regard to callings which entail much exposure to cold.

The question of the marriage of those who suffer from otosclerosis has already been discussed by me.<sup>1</sup> The aurist is not consulted so frequently as might be expected on this question; a little consideration will show why this is so. One reason is that in an individual who is the subject of otosclerosis, the existence of deafness diminishes his or her chances of marriage.

Should the aurist be consulted about the matter, he must judge each case on its individual merits, and I cannot help thinking that the routine advice to forbid marriage to all these patients is undesirable. As a matter of experience, many marriages of this nature prove extremely happy if the parties are of suitable temperaments.

The question of child-bearing is sometimes brought before the aurist; and here also he must take a wide

<sup>1</sup> *Diseases of the Ear*, p. 325 (Baillière, Tindall & Cox)