

tion of the pharyngeal tonsil, tubal or Eustachian tonsils sometimes exist. They are merely an extension of similar tissue, involving or surrounding the openings into the Eustachian tubes. Before leaving this part of the subject, it should be mentioned that a depression or crypt of unusual size is sometimes found in the lower central portion of the tonsil, which has a tendency to take on catarrhal symptoms, and which is known as Luschka's bursa.

ADENOIDS.

The pharyngeal tonsil is very subject to hypertrophy, and when this hypertrophy is serious enough to interfere with normal respiration, it becomes an organic disease, and is known by the distinctive term Adenoids. It was Wilhelm Meyer, of Copenhagen, who first drew attention to the evil effects which this overgrowth produced; and, at the same time, pointed out to the profession the importance of its removal. Since its discovery this disease has been found in every part of the world, although its most persistent habitat is the north temperate zone.

This hypertrophy, which is merely an immense proliferation of the elementary tissues of the gland, is often very irregular in character. It may occur in perpendicular ridges, separated by deep fissures, or in fringe-like masses overhanging the posterior nares, or in peduncular growths depending from the centre of the vault, or big cushions overhanging the mouths of the Eustachian tubes, or comb-like processes extending down the pharyngeal wall—their true character being discovered either by digital examination or the use of the postrhinal mirror.

The evil effects of this obstruction can scarcely be dwelt upon too forcibly, as it occurs in the vast majority of instances during the formative period of life, while the bones of the head are undergoing the process of ossification, and the cartilages are still soft.

As every medical man knows, the presence of adenoids produces mouth breathing accompanied by a flat or nasal voice; and the larger the adenoids, the more continuous and complete becomes the oral respiration. Now, what does this mean? Simply that the normal respiratory act through the nose cannot be performed. Ineffective and irregular development of that organ is the result. The bones consolidate unevenly, the nose may assume a pinched appearance, and the nostrils become slit-like from the lack of normal use. The upper jaw is apt to become narrow and protuberant, overhanging the lower one, accompanied by arched palate and retracted upper lip—all being the results in a more or less degree of irregular air pressure, arising from the obstruction to nasal respiration.

Before leaving the nasal condition, the mental effect should for a moment be dwelt upon. During child-life any nasal or post-nasal lesion that seriously interferes with nasal respiration has a depress-