

# OTOSCLEROSIS

## CHAPTER I

### AGE AND SEX

It is universally accepted by aurists that otosclerosis first manifests itself most commonly between the twentieth and the fortieth year. My own investigations fully corroborate this, and indeed I have found that the first incidence of the disease is most common between the ages of twenty and thirty. My statistics reveal a rather larger percentage of cases arising between the ages of ten and twenty than do those of some others, *e.g.* Hartmann,<sup>1</sup> and although the disease is very rare before the age of ten considering the large proportion of the population alive during that first decade, still cases do occasionally occur then, as may be seen from the accompanying table. In this connection it is interesting to note that judging from my own experience, cases of otosclerosis arising in childhood are generally found to occur where there is the chance combination of two factors—a marked inherited tendency to otosclerosis associated with suppurative middle-ear disease.

<sup>1</sup> Hartmann, *Ueb. d. Knöchern Fixation d. Steigbügel*, s. 44 (J. F. Bergman, 1898).