

Swansea, he expressed identically the same view as Dr. Allbutt had done, on the local causation and development of scrofulous glands in the neck. After considering the primary sources of irritation in decayed teeth, in the mucous membrane of the mouth, pharynx, and nares, he had pointed out that certain diseases of the ear and eruptions on the face and scalp, were frequently observed as the primary irritation in the causation of scrofulous glands in the neck. Three cases had been distinctly traced to wearing earrings. The first case, that of a young woman, ended in scrofulous phthisis. The second had a chain of diseased glands of the neck below the inflamed lobe, extending to the clavicle. She persisted in wearing the earrings till the glands in the axilla became affected. She then discontinued wearing the ornament, and the primary irritation being removed, the lobe of the ear healed, and the morbid action in the glands ceased. The third case was that of a woman of forty-five similar in every respect to the last, with the exception that a large abscess formed in the axilla. He had also no doubt that scrofulous glands in the mesentery (*tabes mesenterica*) arose, as a rule, in local irritation of the mucous membrane of the intestines. The child, living in mesentery conditions, being "out of sorts," was dosed with various drugs, and had diarrhoea, sickness, etc. No improvement was made in the diet, irritation of the mucous membrane of the intestines was kept up, and was followed by induration of the mesenteric glands. No doubt the same law was observed in the causation of scrofulous glands in the mediastinum. The primary irritation might be in the pleura, in the mucous membrane of the bronchial tubes, or even in the blood-vessels. Not long since he traced the primary irritation of a suppurating gland at the base of the heart to an atheromatous ulcer in the aorta. Though local irritation was the main factor, hereditary tendency also played an important part in some cases. The hereditary predisposition might be a tendency to the development of a local irritation on the skin, mucous membrane, or elsewhere; or it might be a tendency to the development of scrofulous glands.

Sir William Gull (President) was of opinion that affections and