

tive tissues in *myxoedema* and those affecting the bone, and to some extent the subcutaneous connective tissues in *acromegaly*.

On the other hand, the pituitary is nearly always found enlarged and hypertrophied in general gigantism as distinguished from this localised *acromegalic* gigantism. It is difficult to reconcile such general gigantism with diminished activity on the part of the enlarged hypophysis, while again the contrast may be pointed out between gigantism and cretinic dwarfism. Tamburini, and independently Massolongo (35) have attempted to coordinate the contradictory anatomical discoveries by suggesting that two stages of the disease may be recognised, a first in which the hypophysis undergoes hypertrophy, and is in over-action, which may give place to a second in which the hypertrophied tissue either undergoes atrophy or adenomatous or sarcomatous change. The suggestion is seductive, but for the present must be regarded merely as a suggestion.

Briefly therefore, our knowledge in this connection is miserably inadequate, and experiments have so far been without result. We cannot say whether in *acromegaly* there is increased or diminished internal secretion. While the change in the pituitary appears often to be primary, we cannot with certainty lay down that this is the case. It has only to be added that if we admit that lesions of the pituitary are associated with *acromegaly*, we must also admit that compensation can occur, for there is considerably over a score of cases on record of hypertrophy, adenoma and cystadenoma of the organ, all of considerable size and presumably of long duration which had developed without signs of the disease in question.

Thus to conclude a long discourse, which in justice to the subject I could not well shorten: I have here, gentlemen, followed a single train of thought. Some may find it suggestive, to some it may be so simple as to be specious, so wide in its embrace that its very comprehensiveness is its damnation. I can only point out that what is here written has been already more or less definitely suggested by various writers in this country and elsewhere, in connection with most, if not all, the conditions here discussed, and impress upon you that, if we are prepared to accept the results of experimental research and to believe in the existence of internal secretions, then, inevitably, we must be led to some such views as those brought forward in the course of this paper.