

DISEASES OF THE THROAT, NOSE, AND EAR.

SECTION I. DISEASES OF THE PHARYNX.

CHAPTER I. METHODS OF EXAMINATION.

IN this section the term pharynx refers to the oro-pharynx, i.e., the part of the pharynx which can be surveyed with the aid of a tongue depressor alone. A view of this region, sufficient for ordinary purposes, can be obtained by daylight without the aid of a mirror, but it is certainly not possible to make a thorough examination in this way; and it is accordingly advisable to make use of a reflector and good artificial light when they are available. It is unnecessary in this section to enter into a consideration of the best form of forehead mirror and source of light to be used, as these will be fully discussed in the chapter on the examination of the larynx; there remains, therefore, only the choice of a tongue depressor. Lack's instrument is one of the best on the market; it consists of a piece of metal bent in the middle at right angles, and is not wide enough to cause the retching so apt to be induced by the broader types of tongue depressor, although it is sufficiently wide to control a large flabby tongue. Brünings' spatula, which is somewhat similar, is equally good. If neither of these is available, one of the other patterns of tongue depressor, or even the handle of a spoon, will answer the purpose.

The light is adjusted after the manner described on page 31, and the patient is asked to open his mouth. The tongue and