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TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

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Founded on the experience of 7,000 cases.

In the second visceral cleft is developed an almost complete circle of lymphoid tissue. On each side of the pharynx is the faucial tonsil, at the base of the tongue and anterior to the epiglottis is the lingual tonsil, above and behind the soft palate is the pharyngeal tonsil commonly known as "adenoids," and at the pharyngeal orifice of the Eustachian tube is a considerable mass of lymphoid tissue known as the "tube tonsil" of Gerlach. The faucial tonsils or what are commonly known as the "tonsils" begin to develop during the fourth month of embryonic life, and at birth they are histologically complete. Their size increases until the age of three or four years, then normally they begin to atrophy, and this goes on till about the age of puberty when they are nearly completely gone.

The palatoglossus muscle, which forms the anterior pillar of the fauces, unites above in the soft palate with the palato-pharyngeus muscle which forms the posterior pillar of the fauces, and at the angle of meeting of these two arches the supratonsillar recess is formed. In this second branchial cleft lymphoid tissue develops from cells of the hypoblastic layer of the embryo.

At the junction of the foregut with the stomatodæum, that is the pharynx with the mouth cavity, a considerable constriction takes place. There are two folds of mucous membrane here that deserve special mention. One fold stretches across between the two pillars of the fauces just beneath the soft palate, and on account of its shape has been called the plica semilunaris. This fold forms the inner boundary of the supratonsillar recess. The other fold stretches across from about the lower