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Selections: Medicine.

DISEASES OF THE BRONCHIAL GLANDS.

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Brompton; etc.

The study of the diseases of those lymphatic glands which are situated at the bifurcation of the trachea is of great interest and importance, not only in reference to the diseased glands themselves, but also by reason of the manner in which they, on the one hand, simulate, and, on the other hand, modify and mask the diseases of other organs in the neighbourhood. Throughout English and foreign medical literature numerous cases will be found described, in which there existed marked disease of the bronchial glands. Little notice, however, has been taken of less striking, but far more numerous, examples of disease. And it is only within a comparatively recent time that the condition has received special attention and been discussed as a disease *per se*. MM. Rilliet and Barthez, in their well-known *Traité des Maladies des Enfants*, have described the disease in infants; and Dr. West, in his work on *The Diseases of Infancy and Childhood*, has fully and clearly described—under the head of “Bronchial Phthisis”—the tubercular diseases of these glands in young subjects. It is, however, to M. Noel Guéneau de Mussy, following up and widely extending the investigations of his predecessors, that we are specially indebted for our knowledge of the effects of these lesions, and to his pupil, M. Baréty, who has published an exhaustive memoir upon them, under the title of *L'Adénopathie Trachéo-Bronchique*. The

subject has attracted my notice since, or even before, the year 1853, and I have kept short notes of nearly sixty cases which I have seen in private practice and which will form the basis of some of the conclusions to be here stated.

Before, however, describing the pathological and clinical history of the diseases of the bronchial glands, it will be well to make a short reference to their anatomical relations. Taking the bifurcation of the trachea as a starting point, we find in the space between the right and left bronchus a group of glands. They are from ten to fifteen in number, and they vary in size from that of a small pea to that of an almond. The glands towards the right bronchus are larger than those towards the left. Glands are also situated upon the tubes; they are few in number and small. The vascular supply of the glands, which is free, is derived from the bronchial arteries, and the blood is returned to the bronchial veins. Afferent lymphatics reach these glands from the lungs, from the pleura, from the neck, and other neighbouring parts. Besides these groups of comparatively large glands, numerous minute lymphatic glands are found in connection with the primary division of the bronchi, chiefly at the back of these tubes, at their bifurcations and those of the pulmonary artery. The central group of glands is in relation in front with the pericardium, the arch of the aorta, and the pulmonary artery; behind, with the pulmonary plexus of nerves, the œsophagus, the aorta, the vena azygos, etc. The glands on the upper, the anterior, and posterior surfaces of the right bronchus are four or five in number, and smaller than those of the central group. Their situation brings them into relation with the arch of the aorta, with the