

the cyst wall, and, on the other hand, did not in any specimen examined by me appear to be sharply differentiated from the surrounding and deeper thyroid tissue; in short, the vesicles in these papillæ resemble the vesicles of the tissue surrounding the cyst. I have already pointed out the many ways in which the contents of these cysts differ from ordinary thyroid secretion, and approach in character to hæmorrhagic products.

I am led, therefore, to regard these large solitary or rare cysts of the thyroid gland as being hæmorrhagic in origin, and I would speak of them as hæmorrhagic or post-hæmorrhagic cysts of the organ.

Many circumstances combined would seem to render the thyroid gland an organ peculiarly liable to be the seat of hæmorrhages. There is, in the first place, the peculiarly vascular character of the organ; in the second, its relatively exposed situation; and, in the third, there may be mentioned, as tending to explain the greater frequency of hæmorrhages, both small and large, in this organ in the female, the changes, apparently to a large extent vascular, which occur in connection with sexual disturbances. It is, however, clear, from the description given to me by Dr. Shepherd and recorded by him in his article in the *Annals of Surgery*, that in most, if not all, of the cases these gross cysts do not develop in healthy thyroids, but that there would seem to have been already some pre-existing morbid condition of the gland predisposing to their production. Judging from the portions of tissue surrounding the cysts that were sent to me, the condition most frequently associated with their development is that of a more or less advanced parenchymatous goitre.

As I have pointed out, in the parenchymatous goitre, even if there be no definite cyst production of a gross type, there may be numerous hæmorrhages; and when it is remembered how delicate are the walls of the distended cysts in this condition, and how abundant at the same time is the vascular supply of the organ and the network of capillaries immediately surrounding the distended vesicles, it is not difficult to realize why it is that such hæmorrhages occur, more especially when the relatively exposed situation of the enlarged gland is taken into