

forming large clusters. Numerous vessels were scattered through the growth. Hypertrophy of the gums is a by no means common affection. The first case recorded was, I believe, by Salter, the case occurring at St. George's Hospital in 1859, under Mr. Pollock, in a girl aged eight. Salter speaks of it as a congenital affection, but this, I think, is a mistake, for the affection, though occurring in children, has never, so far as I know, been noticed at birth. Just thirty years ago I saw a case in this hospital under Mr. Erichsen, in a child of two and a half years, in whom the affection had shown itself at the age of seven months, when the teeth began to appear. Mr. Erichsen removed the exuberant growth freely, and cauterized the cut surfaces, but a permanent cure was not brought about, for, when seven years of age, the child was brought before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society by the late Dr. John Murray, to illustrate a paper on Three Peculiar Cases of Molluscum Fibrosum in Children of One Family. Mr. Erichsen's patient was the eldest of the three, and her portrait (which was shown) bears out the description given of the hypertrophied condition of the gums. The other children, aged four and two, had similar conditions of the gums. Ten years later I had a similar case in this hospital in a girl of four and a half years, who was one of five otherwise healthy children. The swelling of the gums had been noticed for two years, and when she was admitted the gums were enormously hypertrophied, as is shown in the casts taken at the time. Under chloroform I removed each hypertrophied gum and alveolar border in one piece, which I have had preserved in the museum, and she made a good recovery. About the same time I had a case in private in the person of a young man aged twenty-six, in whom the hypertrophy affected only one side of the lower jaw, extending from the right wisdom to the left canine tooth. The affection had been noticed from early childhood, and gave no pain. Here I removed the affected alveolus with bone forceps, and a complete recovery ensued which I know to be permanent, as I happen to have heard from the patient quite recently. It is remarkable that in most of the cases of children affected by hypertrophy of the gums some want of mental development was noticed, but certainly in the two young men upon whom I have operated no such deficiency was to be observed. A remarkable instance of the disease, also occurring in an adult, was recorded by Mr. MacGillivray, Surgeon to the Bendigo Hospital in Australia. The patient, a woman aged twenty-nine, seemed to have suffered from the affection in both jaws soon after birth. At the age of ten portions of the gum were cut away, and several teeth extracted, and she had herself in later life cut away portions of the projecting gum with a razor. All these operations gave rise to severe hæmorrhage. The enormous growth seemed to