

The inferior thyroid veins should be torn rather than cut, and the inner tube introduced immediately, the pressure it exerts having the effect of arresting the hæmorrhage. Other dangers attend this operation, such as the contiguity of the left innominate vein and artery, the greater depth of the trachea, and its more mobile nature at the point to be operated on. In young children the size and high position of the thymus, and the small size and yielding nature of the walls of the trachea itself. In persons beyond the middle age, there is usually ossification of the tube, or other morbid change near the thyroid gland, in such cases it is advisable to be provided beforehand with a pair of strong cutting scissors or forceps.

Mr. Wood enumerates also several dangers which are secondary upon the lower operation, viz.,—infiltration of air into the anterior mediastinum and general sub-pleural tissue, or of blood or pus into these tissues, a progressive ulceration, arising from the constant friction of the tracheotomy tube in breathing, extending downwards from the shaft, or forwards from point of tube against the anterior wall of the trachea.

Another danger is the separation of the shaft of the trachea tube from the shield at the joint which unites them, permitting the shaft to slip entirely into the trachea. He quotes several cases of this kind, which have already been referred to in a late number of the Doctor. He thinks this accident is owing, in a great measure, to the shaft of the tube for the lower operation being much too short, and recommends that it should be an inch and a half in length from the shield to the culm of the curve, instead of barely half or three quarters of an inch, as is the case with the tubes at present in use.—(*The Doctor.*)

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INCREASE OF HEART DISEASE.—An evil recognized is sometimes half cured, and the intellectual classes, looking at figures such as those which Dr. Quain has displayed in his interesting Lumsden Lectures at the College of Physicians on "Diseases of the Walls of the Heart," may well consider the propriety of attending to the hygiene of their lives, as well as of their houses, and remember that, to enjoy and benefit by even pure air, soil, and water, they must avoid disabling heart and brain by the incessant labors which too often make useful lives joyless, and em-