

powerful in controlling or stimulating metabolism, and is then in some way passed over into the outgoing blood stream to be distributed to the whole economy.

The Germans have based their classification of diseases of this organ upon the basis of the amount of secretion manufactured and poured out by it. They classify the three more common diseases of the organ thus:

Athyrea,
Hypothyrea,
Hyperthyrea.

Athyrea is the condition which we usually characterize as myxedema, or in children cretinism. *Hypothyrea* is the condition which we recognize as simple goitre, a condition in which it is generally acknowledged that the secretion of the thyroid gland is lessened. *Hyperthyrea* is that condition which we speak of as Graves' Disease, or exophthalmic goitre, in which there is always an excessive secretion from the thyroid gland. The wonderful simplicity of this classification must appeal to one. Our nomenclature is notoriously bad and complex. Myxedema refers simply to a myxedematous condition of the tissues. Goitre refers simply to the throat; while in exophthalmic goitre we may have neither exophthalmos nor goitre, but only a condition of tachycardia, tremor and general nervous excitement.

I make a direct appeal for the simplicity of the newer classification. It is so easily remembered, it is so suggestive of the pathological findings in any given case, and it has so little of the cumbrous or complex about it, that it must appeal to any man whose aim is for the simplification of our medical nomenclature. Some day, I hope, we shall have an Academy of Medicine, a national affair, built along the lines of the French Academy, which shall do for medical terminology and medical literature and medical nomenclature in the English language what the French Academy does for the general literature of that country in the French tongue. It is possible that as our knowledge broadens this may resolve itself into an international academy, including the whole civilized world. It should at any rate, to make it broad enough, include the whole English speaking world, and I deem the English-speaking world strong enough and progressive enough to take its proper place in the formation of medical terms and terminology for the rest of our sphere.

I have not considered in the classification just mentioned the other diseases of the gland to which this organ is susceptible.