

smooth, the space between the faucial pillars free from glandular enlargement, and the base of the tongue marked only by the normal development of the circumvallate papillæ.

This is the condition usually found, even in cases in which serious hypertrophy of the different tonsils subsequently takes place.

The period of development of the pharyngeal and faucial tonsils is between the first and eighth years, while the lingual tonsil rarely manifests itself to a notable degree until near the period of puberty. Still, in rare instances, both the pharyngeal and faucial tonsils are well formed at the period of birth—a sure indication of subsequent hypertrophy.

The tonsils are physiological structures of a lymphoid character; and when normally developed are essential to the physical well-being of the individual. It is only when they grow to larger than normal size, and the tissues of which they are composed lose their proper balance, that they become a menace to health and demand interference on the part of the physician or surgeon.

Tonsillar tissue is composed of follicles. Each follicle consists of a collection of lymphoid or adenoid cells packed closely together, containing a central endothelial reticulum and forming a unit. These units are grouped together, being separated from each other by a similar endothelial network, consisting of fine trabeculæ of connective tissue elements, containing plasma and lymphoid cells. In the different tonsils these adenoid follicles are variously massed, and are covered by mucous membrane of squamous or columnar character. In the case of the pharyngeal tonsil, ciliated epithelium partially covers the columnar.

On the free surface the mucous membrane is of a compound nature, equal in density to the surrounding mucosa; but in the sulci and invaginations which are present in a more or less degree in all the tonsils—parts that are less exposed to external irritation—the membrane is much thinner, looser in texture and possesses less power of resistance.

In certain points, however, while composed in the main of tissues that are histologically alike, the various tonsils differ from each other in structure as well as function.

The Pharyngeal tonsil, situated on the posterior and superior wall of the naso-pharynx, consists of adenoid tissue held together by fine trabeculæ of connective filaments. It is frequently glomerate, but sometimes racemose, and divided into many segments. When the lymphoid tissue of which it is