

The frequency with which infiltration and edema affected the different parts of the larynx was well worthy of record. In 176 cases the interarytenoid space was affected, in 139 the arytenoids bilaterally, in 57 the ventricular bands, in 30 the epiglottis. Cases in which the affection was unilateral were rare.

The parts of the larynx most subject to ulceration and destruction, in this long list of cases, were those in which the stress and strain were the greatest, that is, the interarytenoid region, together with posterior tracts of the vocal cords—the neighborhood of the cartilages of the vocal processes.

Spasm of the Esophagus.

J. W. Farlow (*Laryngoscope*, August, 1907) gives the history of a somewhat unusual case. It occurred in a woman, aged fifty years, at intervals of about a year, and without any notable exciting cause. The patient's health had always been good, and she was neither hysterical, anemic nor dyspeptic. Although she had several narrow attacks of discomfort in the throat while eating apples, nuts, or dry bread, the first severe attack occurred in the middle of luncheon while swallowing a piece of masticated apple. She suddenly became pale and seriously distressed, with pain in the lower part of the neck. She was able to speak, and the pulse and respiration were both unaffected, while unable to swallow anything, not even water. Hot applications were made to the neck, and although agreeable, they did not relax the spasm. In about twenty minutes pain ceased, frothy mucus was expectorated, and the spasm relaxed.

One year later a similar attack occurred while eating a piece of meat at luncheon, relaxation taking place as before in about twenty minutes.

Again there was a year's interval, and another attack after eating a bisquit. This time it took three-quarters of an hour to relax the spasm.

Treatment at the time in none of these attacks seemed to avail. But after the last one, massage of the neck, compresses and local treatment for simple chronic pharyngitis were tried for some time. The subsequent year she escaped, but whether the treatment had any bearing upon the case the writer questions. One point, however, he insists upon in these cases, and that is the importance of diagnosis, the attempt to pass food, from some idiosyncrasy of the patient, being the immediate cause.