

DISEASES OF THE PHARYNX

VINCENT'S ANGINA.

This is not a common affection of the throat, but as it presents an appearance resembling the formation of a false membrane, it calls for some description. The condition is due to Vincent's fusiform bacillus and Vincent's spirillum. These organisms stain with aniline dyes, and can be detected in a smear preparation; they do not grow on any culture medium. The symptoms are usually those of an ordinary angina, while there may be in addition some swelling of the neck. On inspecting the throat, necrotic areas are seen on one, or more rarely on both, tonsils; the process sometimes extends on to the palate. It may be impossible to differentiate the condition clinically from diphtheria, hence it is important to make a microscopic examination. The disease usually runs a mild course, but fatal results have been recorded by Bruce.

TREATMENT consists in the application of tincture of iodine or of some other antiseptic pigment (see Appendix).

ANGINA ULCEROSA BENIGNA.

This condition was first described by Heryng, and although rare, is worthy of some notice, as it may be mistaken for diphtheria or syphilis. In most cases a single oval ulcer is found, covered with a dirty grey deposit, and situated on one of the anterior pillars of the fauces; more rarely the ulceration involves both pillars. There may be severe pain, but in a case observed by myself, where there was a single ulcer, pain was not complained of.

A careful examination should prevent a mistake in diagnosis, as the loss of tissue distinguishes it from a mucous patch; and if there is any difficulty in eliminating syphilis, the progress of the case will shortly clear up the diagnosis. It should also be possible to exclude diphtheria, for there is no false membrane, but merely a grey deposit on the ulcer.

TREATMENT.—A mild antiseptic mouth-wash (see Appendix) should be used, while salicylates may be given internally, as there is a possibility of the condition being rheumatic.

DIPHTHERIA.

It would be outside the scope of this book to give a full description of diphtheria, for it does not usually come under