

ABDUCTOR PARALYSIS OF THE LARYNX.*

By D. J. GIBB WISHART, M.D.,

Professor of Laryngology and Rhinology, Trinity Medical College, and the Ontario Medical College for Women, Toronto, Ont.

In presenting the subject of abductor paralysis again for your consideration, and keeping in mind the paper read before you in 1900 by Dr. Norton L. Wilson (1), I may premise by apologizing that I have nothing new to add with regard to etiology or treatment. Only two cases have presented themselves to me thus far, but as one of these has been under observation for over four years, and as it exhibits some doubtful points in diagnosis as well as other points of interest, I may be pardoned for bringing the subject under your attention.

Both of my cases have been males. The first presented himself on the 28th of May, 1898, at St. Michael's Hospital, suffering from marked dyspnea. At the age of 18 the patient had suffered from a slight attack of gonorrhea, and from what may have been a chancre. There is an indefinite history of the appearance of four gummata, one on the left temple, but there was no appearance of swelling of the glands, or of a rash upon the skin at any time. It would seem that a diagnosis of syphilis had been made at that time, as the patient states that he was treated for nine months with blue pill and sarsaparilla. From that time on he appears to have been thoroughly healthy and well. At the age of 26 he married, and became the father of four children, all of whom have been healthy from birth.

Two years ago, that is to say thirty-seven years after the chancre, the present disease manifested itself. For the first twelve months all that was noticed was a numbness along the outside of, and in the heel of the left foot. Eight months ago he noticed a numbness in the tongue, similar to that of the feet. This numbness spread to the left side of the nose and cheek, and most of the left side of the face. Three months later hoarseness developed, gradually increasing, while the voice became noticeably weaker. Two months ago swallowing became difficult for the first time, and this was accompanied by a tendency toward the regurgitation of fluids through the nose. Respiration also became noisy, and somewhat difficult, especially on exertion. During the past six years there has been a loss of weight, amounting to 35 pounds, and night sweats have not been uncommon. At the present time he has a sensation of walking on wool, equally in both feet. The legs

* Read before the American Laryngological Society at its meeting in Washington, D.C., June 3rd, 1902.