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The Throat and The Voice: Part 1, Chapter 11: Morbid Growths in the Throat and Windpipe

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CHAPTER XI.

TUMORS IN THE THROAT AND WINDPIPE.

WARTS and various other tumors are developed in the throat and windpipe, just as in other regions of the body. They give rise to cough, hoarseness, and difficulty of breathing, swallowing, or articulation, according to their location, size, and mode of attachment; but they rarely occasion pain. These symptoms are often erroneously referred to other diseases. Such growths usually result from catarrhal inflammations of the surfaces on which subsequently they become developed. Croup and measles are sometimes productive of them. When quite large, or very movable, their presence may be suspected by the character of the breathing. As a rule, however, they are only discoverable by observing their image in a little mirror held in the mouth. They usually require removal by some variety of surgical procedure, internal remedies being adequate for their absorption only in exceptional instances.

CHAPTER XII.

PARALYSIS OF THE THROAT.

PARALYSIS of the throat occurs in various forms as the result of disease or injury. Paralysis of the palate is recognized by its relaxed condition and the sluggishness with which it contracts on touching it with some foreign body, as the finger or a lead-pencil. In some cases it does not contract at all. This form of paralysis sometimes follows diphtheria, but occurs in many other diseases likewise. There is a nasal twang to the voice, and great difficulty in swallowing fluids, portions of which escape into the upper part of the pharynx, and thence run out by the nasal passages.

Paralysis of the pharynx is indicated by difficulty in swallowing, or even inability to swallow. The muscles of the pharynx fail to contract on contact of foreign substances. This form of disease is sometimes a manifestation of hysteria, as indeed is, sometimes, paralysis of any other portion of the throat, or indeed of any other portion of the body.

As will be explained in the article on voice, there