

1879

The Throat and The Voice: Part 1, Chapter 14: Neuralgia of the Throat

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Recommended Citation

Solis Cohen, Jacob, "The Throat and The Voice: Part 1, Chapter 14: Neuralgia of the Throat" (1879). *The Throat and the Voice*, by J. Solis Cohen, M.D. 1879. 16.

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CHAPTER XIV.

NEURALGIA OF THE THROAT.

NEURALGIAS, or pains along the course of the nerves, occur in different portions of the throat, as they do elsewhere. The absence of evidences of serious disease, on the one hand, or the presence of tumors and the like pressing on the course of a nerve, on the other, indicate the true nature of the complaint, which is to be treated by the means usual in the treatment of neuralgias generally. It is quite possible, as in spasm, that the malady is often of reflex origin from disease in some distant part of the body; and in such instances the neuralgia will not be likely to subside permanently until that organ recovers, whether it does so spontaneously, as is sometimes the case, or as the result of intelligent treatment, as is more frequent.

These neuralgias are not to be confounded with the pains incidental to inflammatory and other affections of the throat, of which they are symptomatic accessories.

CHAPTER XV.

NASO-PHARYNGEAL CATARRH.

THE upper portion of the pharynx, above the palate, the roof of the pharynx, and the posterior portions of the nasal passages are liable to become diseased together in the form of what is known as naso-pharyngeal catarrh. It is quite common as a chronic affection or disease of long standing, and is usually the result of a succession of more or less acute attacks which have left the mucous membranes of the parts designated in a permanently swollen condition, with a disposition to excessive secretion from their mucous glands. In some cases, the glands themselves are diseased and permanently enlarged.

The symptoms are those of more or less continuous impediment to free respiration through the nose, and the accumulation of viscid phlegm or mucus in the upper part of the pharynx, and at the back part of the nasal passages. This mucus is usually hawked out of the throat by a more or less violent inspiratory effort through the nose, attended at times with more