locate this little known structure, and to add that it is rudimentary in man, and usually indicated by a slight depression of the surface of the lower anterior portion of the nasal septum.

Functionally inactive organs are prone to degenerate. The vermiform appendix is a striking example of this, its only manifestation of activity being when it becomes the seat of a pathological process. The faucial tonsils are in the same category. Research has so far failed to attribute to them any physiological *raison d'être*, and they furnish a fertile field for morbid processes and ambitious surgeons. The intermaxillary bone serves only to produce deformity by abnormal development. The proneness of other structures, more useful in their right place, to cause mischief when out of place, is instanced by the frequency with which morbid growths and degenerations develop in undescended testes.

Analogous to these processes are the septal ulcers which occur at the site of the rudimentary organ of Jacobson. Nothing else will explain their predilection for this exact spot, and the conclusion is certainly justified by pathological analogy.

Primary Lesion of Leprosy. (*Phila. Med. Jour.*, Jan. 8, 1898.)

Dr. Sticker (Giessen) examined 400 lepers in India and Egypt during May and June, 1897, for leprosy bacilli in various secretions and excretions. He believes that the initial lesion of this disease consists of a specific lesion of the mucous membrane, usually in the form of an ulcer above the cartilaginous part of the nasal septum. This primary lesion may, during the progress of the disease, develop into every form of chronic rhinitis, with ozena and necrosis of the nasal structures. It is *often present in the latent stage of leprosy years before the appearance of the first tubercles in the skin or the development of the first nervous symptoms*. In an examination of 153 lepers, the presence of bacilli in the nasal secretion was observed 128 times. The author claims that the primary lesion in the nose remains an active center of infection throughout the course of the disease, as the bacilli are being constantly thrown off in great numbers in the nasal secretion, consequently this secretion is the chief source of danger.

LEDERMAN.