ART. IV.—*Notes in Medicine and Surgery*—III. By PHILIP CRAMPTON SMYLY, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.; L.K. & Q.C.P.; Surgeon to the Meath Hospital, and to the Institution for Sick Children, Pitt-street.

THE subject of enlarged tonsils has met with much attention and extensive observation; and yet there are few diseases on which authorities differ so much as to the nature of the disease, the use of the organs in health, the effects produced by the disease on the system generally, or the connexion of these glands, whether diseased or not, with other glands, however remote. The indication for treatment is simple enough in theory, namely, to diminish to size of the glands. Many and various are the means recommended; and the question as to whether the whole enlarged gland should be removed, or only a part, is not by any means settled. It is to a somewhat new mode of treatment I wish to direct attention in these notes.

When in London, last year, Dr. Mackenzie called my attention to a mode of treating enlarged tonsils by strong caustics, following Fournié. Fournié employed Vienna paste and bi-chromate of potash. Dr. Mackenzie uses what he calls "London paste;" it consists of caustic soda and lime. I saw several cases treated by him, and have treated many in the same way myself. In most cases I believe it to be very superior to any cutting operation.

I generally employ a piece of ivory, slightly roughened and hollowed at the end. Dr. Mackenzie formerly used a simple glass rod, but now uses a very ingenious instrument, made by Krohne. It consists "of a small shallow spoon, or receiver, into which the escharotic is put; the receiver is provided with a lid or cover, which, when the instrument is grasped in the hand, can be pushed forwards or backwards by the action of the index finger on a kind of trigger or half ring placed near the handle. The instrument is introduced closed, and, when opposite the tonsil, the lid is drawn back from the receiver, and the latter, with its contained paste, is pressed firmly against the hypertrophied gland for about five seconds; the lid is then pushed forwards over the receiver, and the instrument withdrawn."

This, of course, renders the application much more easy; though, with a little care, and a good light, such as is thrown into the pharynx by the laryngoscopic reflector, I find the piece of ivory quite manageable enough.

When applying the paste there are some cautions to be observed. 1st. The paste should be made rather thick and tenacious, and not lumpy. 2nd. Only a little should be taken upon the holder. 3rd. The uvula should not be touched. 4th. Some vinegar should be at hand, in case any part but the tonsil be touched. 5th. The patient must not be allowed to use any water after the application, but allow the saliva to flow freely from the mouth; even after some time I have found a little cold water bring on very considerable pain.

I find from five to ten applications sufficient to remove the enlarged glands in most cases. The advantages appear to me to be:—1st. The application is less painful than cutting. 2nd. It is never followed by dangerous bleeding; and even a little blood is a great loss to many who have large tonsils. 3rd. There is little or no inflammation set up, and therefore less chance of the lung becoming affected, as pointed out by Stokes. 4th. There is no dread of a surgical operation. 5th. It can be applied to the youngest children, and 6th. The rapidity with which the parts may be removed. It would be tedious to give cases in detail; it is sufficient to say, that, in all those I have treated in this way, I have not seen an unpleasant symptom.

Dr. Mackenzie, in comparing the "London paste" with caustic potash, observes "that it possesses the following advantages:—

"I. It tends to penetrate, rather than to spread.

"II. The action, though less violent at the moment of application, continues for a much longer time.

"III. It causes much less pain."

ART. V.—*The Immediate Treatment of Fracture by Fixed Apparatus.* By JOLLIFFE TUFNELL, F.R.C.S.I., M.R.I.A.,
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WHEN, a few years since, Baron Seutin introduced his method of applying the starched apparatus, for the immediate treatment of fractures, it seemed as if the old plans, by means of wooden, iron, or other splints (for fracture of the leg especially), would be done away with altogether, and his system, only, adopted. Experience, however, proves that such has not been the case; and the practice of