A CASE OF MULTIPLE BONE FORMATION IN THE TONSILS.

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Cases of cartilage and bone formation in the tonsils have been described, but the condition is rather infrequent. Cartilaginous or bony deposits may be almost microscopic or they may be large enough to be recognized with the naked eye. They are supposedly due to vestigial remnants of the second bronchial cleft, or to a metaplasia occurring in fibrous tissue such as is sometimes found in other glandular organs, as for instance the parotid or mammary gland, and the testes. These cases differ from those that have been reported as due to elongated styloid process in the tonsils of which in recent years a few have been reported in the literature.

The following case is one of bilateral multiple bone formation in the tonsils. S. W., a well-developed man of 40 years of age, had trouble with his tonsils two years previously. Since then he has had several attacks of sore throat, the last attack having occurred ten months ago. The patient's general health has been good. He gave no history of rheumatism or any previous operation on his throat.

Using a Beck-Mueller tonsillectome the tonsils were removed under local anesthesia. There was the sensation of cutting through very tough tissue.

Examination of both tonsils showed the capsule unusually thick and tough and both tonsils contained in their substance numerous hard bodies. On opening the tonsils these bodies were found to be separate, smooth and white, of varying sizes. They looked like bone and felt and cut like bone. Microscopic examination by Dr. Cora Hesselberg showed them to be bone and this diagnosis was further corroborated by Dr. Ralph L. Thompson, of St. Louis University Medical School, who also reported bone formation from specimens submitted to him.

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