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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

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PRIMARY EPITHELIOMA OF THE TONSIL.*

BY J. M. INGERSOLL, A.M., M.D., CLEVELAND, OHIO.

Primary epithelioma of the tonsil is a rare condition; about 120 authentic cases have been reported. It is estimated by Jonathan Wright to occur about once in two thousand cases of carcinoma of all parts of the body.

The report of the following case is of interest, therefore, on account of its rarity. M. G. was a well-developed, muscular Irishman, forty-two years of age; his family and personal history were negative. Thirteen weeks before he was first seen by me he noticed that his right tonsil began to enlarge slowly and was slightly painful; the tonsil continued to increase in size, and at two different times it had been amputated with a tonsillotome.

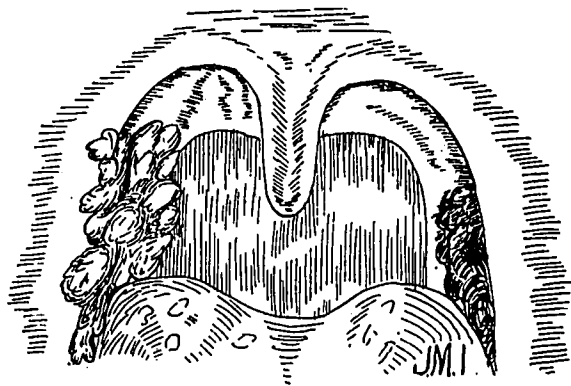
When he consulted me the whole respiratory tract, except the right tonsil, was normal. He said he felt well except for the pain in the tonsil, which had been steadily increasing. The tonsil was covered by a fairly firm, irregular, fungoid mass, projecting out about 2 c.m. beyond the anterior pillar. The whole surface presented an uneven, cauliflower-like appearance covered by a mucopurulent secretion. The mass extended upward on to the soft palate, involving both the anterior and posterior pillars; it also followed the anterior pillar downward and extended on to the tongue; posteriorly the growth extended along the posterior pillar downward to its attachment to the pharyngeal wall, but the wall

* Reported to the Cleveland Medical Society, March 9, 1900.

itself was not involved. The surrounding tissue was inflamed and infiltrated. The lymphatic glands at the angle of the jaw, on the right side, were involved.

From the macroscopic appearance of the tumor the diagnosis of a malignant growth was made and a piece was removed and submitted to Dr. Perkins for microscopical examination: he reported it to be a typical epithelioma.

I explained the situation to the patient and advised him to submit to a radical operation, telling him that such an operation offered him the only possible hope of recovery, and that without an operation he might live a few months, but probably not longer than a year or a year and a half. He asked me if I would promise



Epithelioma of right tonsil.

a cure and I told him "No." He never returned to me. When I last heard of him, he was being treated by a "cancer specialist," who had told him that he would guarantee a cure for \$300 cash, or treat him, without a guarantee, for \$150. It is to be hoped that the patient accepted the latter generous offer and thereby saved enough money to pay for his own funeral expenses.

The accompanying drawing from life shows the position and gross appearance of the tumor.

(Since I reported this case I have learned that the patient died in the office of the "cancer specialist" a few weeks later.)

50 Euclid Avenue.