

PERSISTENT THYRO-GLOSSAL DUCT.

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PERSISTENCE of any portion of the thyro-glossal duct seems to be very uncommon. There is not much literature on the subject. The patient in whom I observed this condition was a boy six years of age. Nothing unusual had been noticed until about a year before I operated, when his mother found a small lump, the size of a pea, situated in the middle line of the front of the neck, about three centimetres below the hyoid bone. It gradually increased in size, and in twelve months was as large as a filbert. Subsequently the cutaneous covering became red and inflamed.

When I first examined the boy this lump, covered by reddened integument, was quite conspicuous, and seemed to be irritated by the collar-button. The boy complained that it hurt him.

Another striking peculiarity about the thing was that whenever the boy swallowed the lump was drawn upward distinctly, and also inward and backward, the surrounding skin being thrown forward into a circular fold around the margin of this little red tumor. This had been noticed for about a month, and is no doubt secondary to an adhesive inflammation between the cyst wall and the overlying skin. On palpation a well-defined, hard cord could be felt extending from the tumor to the centre of the lower border of the hyoid bone. The tumor itself was soft and fluctuating. What the nature and pathology of this most unusual condition were I did not know. I ransacked many books without obtaining any light,