

affections of the two structures would be much the same. The presence of a tumor, and marked tenderness near the umbilicus, and the history of a discharge from the umbilicus, are both significant of the presence of the diverticulum. In either affection there is apt to be a history of previous attacks of pain.

The only treatment to be thought of for the condition under discussion is prompt laparotomy and removal of the inflamed or strangulated diverticulum. The special points to be observed are the careful stitching of the pedicle, as it often opens directly into the intestinal canal, and the careful ligation of the vessels, because the diverticulum is supplied by a branch of the mesenteric artery, which is the persistent omphalo-mesenteric artery, and may be of considerable size.

THE TONSILS AS A MEANS OF ENTRANCE FOR PYOGENIC MICRO-ORGANISMS.

BUSCHKE calls attention (*Deutsche Zeitschr. für Chirurgie*, 1894, Bd. xxxviii., Hefte 4 u. 5) to the fact that although suppurative processes have received considerable attention, and in many cases are well understood, still the point of entrance of the micro-organisms is in many cases uncertain. It is well known, for example, that following typhoid fever or pneumonia an osteomyelitis may result, the source of the disease being the typhoid bacillus or the pneumococcus. The bacterium coli commune is also capable, in diseased conditions of the intestinal walls, of escaping and causing suppurative processes. Thus it is possible for germs to enter the blood through the respiratory and alimentary tracts. Garré first pointed out that infection could occur through the skin and the adjacent mucous membranes. It is now conceded that micro-organisms are able to find lodgment in the skin, but a local inflammation is necessary before they can effect an entrance into the blood, which occurs through the medium of the lymphatics. The probability of connection between inflammatory affections of the tonsils and diseases of the deep-lying organs has been referred to by former authors. Ribbert concludes from his investigations that the mucous membrane of the mouth is an effective barrier to the entrance of micro-organisms, except where the epithelium is not intact, as the tonsil. Witzel advances the opinion that in acute rheumatism of the joints the tonsils may be the point of entrance of the disease. Kraske and Jordan have likewise attributed osteomyelitis to infection through the tonsils in certain cases.

The author describes several cases in which he attempts to show the connection between diseased tonsils and suppurative processes in the body. Bacteriological examinations showed the presence of streptococci and staphylococci in the crypts of the tonsils and in the blood, as well as in the suppurating focus.

On this ground Buschke expresses the following opinions:

1. That the tonsils may be the points of entrance for pyogenic micro-organisms; it is not necessary that ulceration or diphtheria should prepare the way for lodgment and multiplication of germs.
2. On the basis of experimental investigations it is probable that the tonsils play an important rôle as the means of entrance for pus-producing micro-

organisms, and certainly a more important one than the respiratory and alimentary tracts. Very probably the bacteria do not pass the tonsils without causing slight trouble, which in the majority of cases is unnoticed. The care of the mouth and throat is not only of local hygienic importance, but is also of value for the prevention of general disease.

OPHTHALMOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

GEORGE A. BERRY, M.B., F.R.C.S. EDIN.,
OPHTHALMIC SURGEON, EDINBURGH ROYAL INFIRMARY;

AND

EDWARD JACKSON, A.M., M.D.,
PROFESSOR OF DISEASES OF THE EYE IN THE PHILADELPHIA POLYCLINIC;
SURGEON TO WILLS EYE HOSPITAL, ETC.

SCOPOLAMINE: A NEW MYDRIATIC.

RAEHLMANN (*Klinische Monatsblätter für Augenheilkunde*, xxxi., No. 2) called the attention of the profession to the alkalioid scopolamine, obtained from the roots of the *Scopolia Atropoides* and isomeric with atropine, hyoscine, duhoisine, and daturine. He claimed that it excelled any of these as a mydriatic and antiphlogistic; and that, while so strong in its mydriatic action, it had no untoward effects, causing no constitutional symptoms. He employed it as a mydriatic in a solution of one-fifth to one-tenth per cent., one grain or one-half grain to the fluidounce.

Since his publication it has been tested quite extensively by ophthalmic surgeons, a number of whom have published reports upon its action. In general, these agree that it has such mydriatic power as was originally claimed for it; but they fail to sustain the view that it was more free than other mydriatics from liability to produce constitutional effects. And while Professor Kohert, from some experiments on the lower animals, concluded that its general action on the nerve centres was the opposite of that of atropine, the symptoms observed after its use as a mydriatic all seem to indicate that its action on the nervous system is closely allied or identical with that of the previously known drugs of its class.

The present literature and experience regarding scopolamine, therefore, indicate that it is very closely allied to these drugs—if, indeed, it be not the same drug obtained from a new source.

HEMORRHAGIC IRITIS.

HEMORRHAGE in the course of iritis is not a very rare complication. M. TEILLAIS (*La Semaine Médicale*, Année xiv., No. 27) reports an experience with it including five cases. The first occurred in a patient the subject of