

THYROID GLAND AND NECK.

Torretta, A.—*The Parathyroid Glandules in Mammals; Comparative Anatomico-Physiological Researches.* “*Annales des Maladies de l’Oreille,*” etc., December, 1901.

In this paper the author comes to the following results :

1. That in every mammal examined the parathyroid glandules have no special vessels, but obtain their blood from the thyroid arteries.
2. That in the *canis familiaris* the blood-supply of the thyroid gland is carried on exclusively by two arteries entering the gland at different levels, usually a little below the cricoid cartilage, and corresponding, without doubt, to the superior thyroid arteries of man. In these animals, as in the cat, inferior thyroid arteries are exceptional.
3. In man there is, on the contrary, an inferior thyroid artery (one on each side), which distributes blood to the parathyroid glandules internally and externally, although injection only of the superior thyroid arteries reaches the two parathyroid glandules, or, at least, the superior one; but imperfectly, and evidently only by reason of the anastomosis existing between the terminal branches of the two arterial systems of the thyroid glands.

Torretta's general conclusions upon the subject are :

1. The parathyroid glandules are found in all mammals examined to the number of four, two outer and two inner (except in the *mus decumanus alb.*, which has no inner glandules). Their structure is characteristic, and corresponds to the observations of all other investigators, and they have special functions, which are very imperfectly understood. It must be admitted that the parathyroids are organs morphologically and functionally distinct, having nothing in common with the supernumerary thyroid glands, nor with the carotid glands.
2. At one period of life, more or less prolonged, according to the animal, one should be able, by a series of careful researches, to demonstrate the continuity of tissue of the internal parathyroids with the thyroid gland, and of the external ones with the thymus. These facts are based on the observations of Kohn on the *felis catus*, of Fusari on the human embryo, and of the author's on the *fœtus of canis familiaris*. Therefore the former should be called *parathyroids*, and the latter *parathymics*.
3. It can only be shown that the parathyroids were embryonic thyroid glands, to supply the physiological waste of the thyroid gland.
4. These glands have no particular bloodvessels, but obtain their blood from the inferior thyroid arteries in man, and from the superior vessels in *canis familiaris*, *felis catus*, etc. Macleod Yearsley.

E A R.

Breyre.—*A Case of Cholesteatoma without Suppuration.* “*Revue Hebdomad. de Laryngology,*” etc., November 30, 1901.

Cholesteatomata are divided into two classes—first, primary, arising quite independently of any inflammation or suppuration. They are very rare, and their pathogenesis is not yet ascertained. Second, secondary; the epithelium of the meatus proliferates, and grows into the attic or antrum and mastoid cells through a perforation in the