

from frequent and painful micturition, vesical tenesmus, gastro-intestinal disturbance, pyloric spasm, etc. She had also had œdema of the larynx, and had obtained relief by large doses of morphia and atropin. As might be expected, the patient also suffered from colon stasis, and an X-ray showed adhesions about the hepatic flexure. In 1913 the dysphagia returned, and at this time cutaneous wheals appeared on the neck. Arrow-smith holds that what he observed through the œsophagoscope in 1911 was a localised angio-neurotic œdema.

J. S. Fraser.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

Evans, J. S., Middleton, W. S., and Smith, A. J.—Tonsillar Endamœbiasis and Thyroid Disturbances. "Amer. Journ. Med. Sci.," February, 1916.

Following upon the work of McCarrison, Farrant, and others, there has recently become evident a tendency to regard endemic goitre as due to an infective agent. While in no sense wishing to be understood as advancing such an explanation in reference to all cases of goitre, the writers of this paper regard it as probable that some of them are due to an effect on the thyroid gland of toxins elaborated in the tonsils or some other part of the upper respiratory tract, as a result of the symbiosis of the *Endamœba gingivalis* with certain bacteria, notably the *Micrococcus catarrhalis*, the protozoon being supposed to produce, by proteolysis of various cells, a pabulum of special value for the nutrition and growth of those bacteria whose toxins, according to Farrant, possess the power of thyroid stimulation. Of 362 goitrous persons examined, 22·8 per cent. showed infective conditions of the tonsillar crypts, and 90 per cent. showed lesions of either the tonsils or the nasal passages. Of 34 cases with diseased tonsils examined microscopically, 97 per cent. were found to harbour the *Endamœba gingivalis* in the tonsillar crypts. Of 16 individuals of this group who, after treatment by means of emetin hydrochloride, were re-examined, 13, or 81 per cent., were found no longer to have amœbæ in the tonsil crypts. Further, in 18 of 23 persons to whom emetin was administered, a definite reduction in the size of the goitre took place, the improvement being most constant in the dysthyroid cases, in 6 out of 7 of whom varying degrees of benefit were observed, from slight amelioration to apparent cure.

Thomas Guthrie.

### NOTES AND QUERIES.

#### THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—SECTION OF OTOLOGY.

It has been arranged to hold a special discussion on "*Warfare Injuries and Neuroses of Otological Interest*" on Friday, February 16, 1917, at 5 p.m. This early notice is given in the hope that those interested will prepare reports of cases to submit to the meeting, and will send full particulars of them not later than November 30 to Mr. E. D. D. Davis, 81, Harley Street, W. The council hope that if they receive sufficient material they will be able to classify and group the cases, as this should add to the value of the discussion; and it is therefore suggested that those sending in cases should later on send a further report on the progress of the cases; these additional reports should be received before the middle of January. Pathological notes of any fatal cases will, we understand, be considered extremely valuable.

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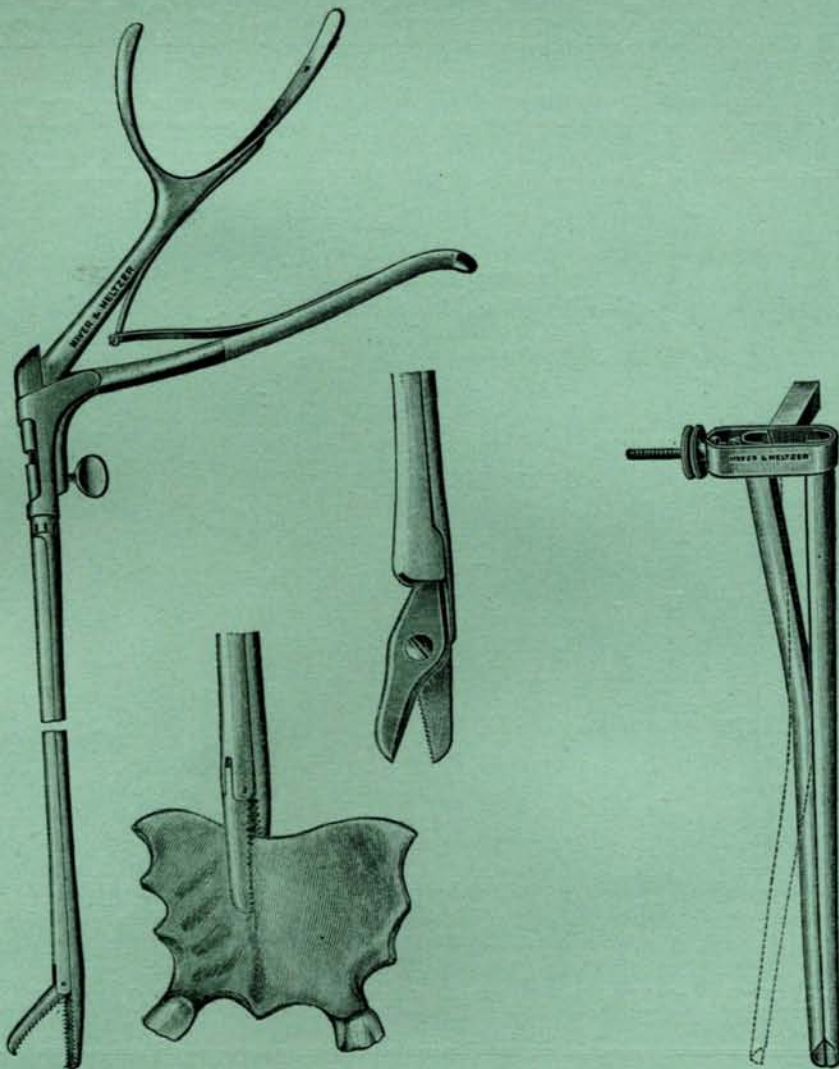
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See *LANCET*, May 13th, 1916.



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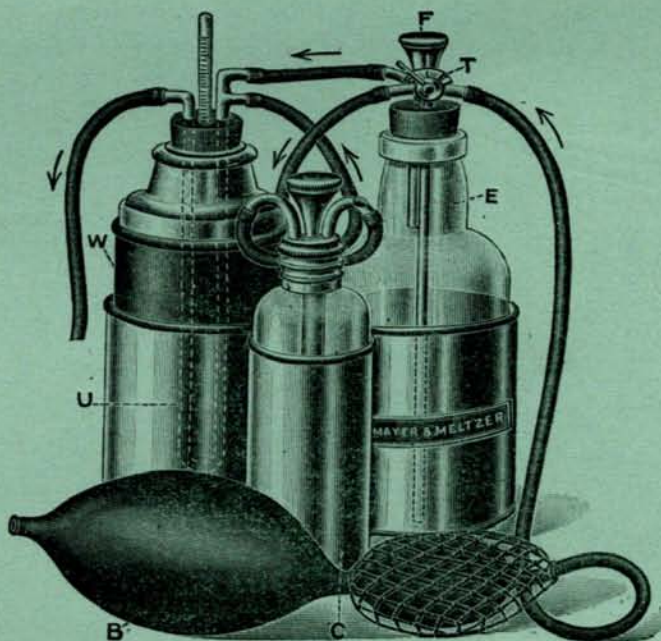
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