

TUBERCULOSIS OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

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Tuberculosis of the lymphatic system by Walter Bradford Metcalf

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WALTER BRADFORD METCALF

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SYSTEM**

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TUBERCULOSIS

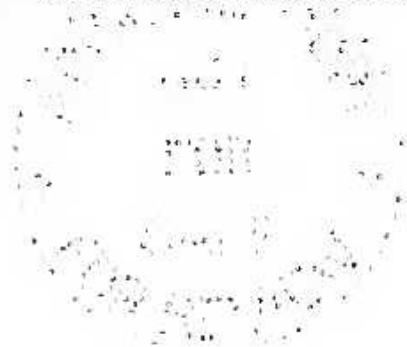
OF THE

LYMPHATIC SYSTEM

BY

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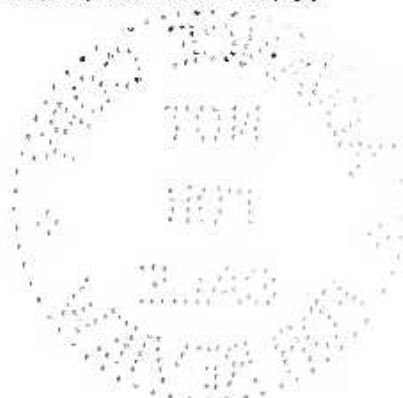


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PREFACE

The following pages represent an attempt to emphasize the importance of glandular tuberculosis, especially as it occurs during childhood. Up to recent times there has been a tendency to consider this condition only as a local affair, but the modern view of considering the majority of cases of adult tuberculosis as autoinfections from old foci, contracted during childhood, places the question of glandular tuberculosis in another light. "Hilus tuberculosis" is an established entity. Tuberculous bronchial glands, the result of a childhood infection, undoubtedly are the most common source of adult pulmonary tuberculosis. The profession is just awakening to the fact that pulmonary tuberculosis of the adult can be prevented by proper prophylactic methods during childhood.

No condition so influences the development of the thorax as a tuberculous infection of the bronchial glands. In fact, the entire development of the child is markedly influenced by such infection. There is increasing evidence that the so-called delicate and frail child is delicate and frail because of an existing tuberculous tracheo-bronchial adenopathy.

The surgeon is slowly giving up the field of tuberculous cervical adenitis. This condition should never be allowed to become a surgical question. Tuberculosis of the lymphatic system, especially during childhood, should be considered a serious affliction and be worthy of our best efforts, and if proper medical treatment is instituted during this primary stage of the infection nearly all cases will respond favorably—limit the course of the disease, and reduce its mortality.

A comparatively large space has been given to the subject of anatomy of the lymphatic system, the importance of which is seen when we begin to study the portals of entry of the infection, and the subsequent spreading of the disease.

In the treatment of tuberculosis the importance of fresh air,

good food and hygienic surroundings is conceded by everyone. But the one agent, which in the author's opinion is the foremost weapon in our fight against tuberculosis, namely tuberculin, has been sadly neglected in our country.

In these pages a plea is made for the rational use of tuberculin as a diagnostic and therapeutic agent with special reference to its value in tuberculosis of the lymphatic system.

The author wishes to graciously express his appreciation for the able assistance rendered him by Assistant Surgeon Edwin Peterson, U. S. N. R. F. The many valuable references from French, German and Swedish medical literature were translated by him. He is also indebted to Dr. Roy M. Bowell for the compilation of parts of the subject-matter.

WALTER BRADFORD METCALF, M.D.

October, 1918

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