

5411
S726
SR

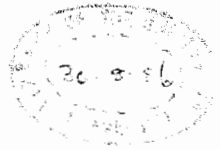
THESIS

on

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TONSILLECTOMY
AND SUBSEQUENT BULBAR POLIOMYELITIS

by

R. V. SOUTHCOTT



Submitted for the degree of Doctor of Medicine
in the University of Adelaide, 1954.

CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
History of bulbar poliomyelitis.....	5
A critical history of the knowledge of the relationship between poliomyelitis and tonsillectomy.....	59
Studies on a long range association between bulbar poliomyelitis and previous tonsillectomy.....	102
Summary.....	153
References.....	156.

Introduction

The theme of this thesis is set out in the title. A long range relationship between tonsillectomy and the subsequent contraction of bulbar poliomyelitis is described. This is the essential contribution to knowledge of this thesis.

The present study arose out of a chance observation by the writer in the early part of 1952, on the reviewing of some data gathered on a survey made on the epidemiology of the 1947-1948 epidemic of poliomyelitis in South Australia, conducted by himself and N. D. Crosby for the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Adelaide. That observation was that 44 out of 78 paralytic poliomyelitis sufferers had previously undergone tonsillectomy. That proportion, or 56%, appeared (at a guess) to be high. It was decided to investigate this matter in detail, against control figures for the general population. As a preliminary, the poliomyelitis cases were divided into bulbar and non-bulbar paralytic cases. From this it appeared at first sight that the bulbar cases were responsible for the phenomenon. Further investigation confirmed this. A preliminary statement on the observations was made by the writer in 1952, and the results of the investigation were published in 1953. Relevant historical studies are presented in the present thesis.

The writer is indebted to the superintendents and staff

of the various hospitals in which the patients were treated, for access to clinical notes; to Dr. E. A. Cornish of the Section of Mathematical Statistics, and his staff, of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, for advice and aid in statistical matters; and to Dr. W. Christie, formerly Principal Medical Officer, Schools Medical Services of South Australia, for aid with the collection of data on control school children.