THESIS

on

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TONSILLECTOMY
AND SUBSEQUENT BULBAR POLIOMYELITIS

by

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Introduction

The theme of this thesis is set out in the title. A long-term relationship between tonsillitis 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 1932, on the reviewing of some data gathered on a survey made on the epidemiology of the 1927-1928 epidemic of poliomyelitis in South Australia, conducted by himself and W. E. Croaby for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Adelaide. That observation was that 16 out of 78 paralytic poliomyelitis sufferers had previously undergone tonsillitis. That proportion, or 21%, 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 1932, and the results of the investigation were published in 1933. Relevant historical studies are presented in the present thesis.

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