ON THE
WEIGHT OF THE THYROID BODY
IN
PERSONS DYING FROM VARIOUS CAUSES.

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THE size of the thyroid body in disease has recently assumed considerable importance owing to a probable connection between atrophy and destruction of this body, and myxœdema and certain cretinoid conditions.

Comparatively few detailed observations appear to have been made as to the weight of the thyroid body in general diseases in which no obvious deviations from the normal were noticed in the organ during life.

In the years 1871 and 1872 I made a number of observations on the weight of the thyroid body of persons dying in the London Hospital. The observations were nearly consecutive in order, and made irrespective of the cause of death. They show also the age and sex of the patient, the weight and general nutrition of the body, and the cause of death.

The thyroid body was carefully dissected from its attachments, freed from adventitious tissues, and then weighed.

I think it better simply to record the observations arranged in a tabular form according to the ages, and to withhold any inferences until a larger series of cases allows of safer generalisation.

Table of the Weight of the Thyroid Body in Persons dying from various causes.

MALES.					FEMALES.					
	Age.	Nutrition of body.	Weight of body in lbs.	Weight of thyroid body.	Cause of death.	Age.	Nutrition of body.	Weight of body in lbs.	Weight of thyroid body.	Cause of death.
				drms. gr.					drms. gr.	
Under 5 to 14	14	Normal	18	0 32	Acute tuberculosis.	4	Much wasted	—	0 45	Tubercular meningitis.
	...	...	65	...	Pyæmia.	9	Edematous	53	1 37	Acute nephritis.
	11 12	Slightly wasted Normal	70	2 19 3 44	Ruptured abdominal viscera.	12	Slightly wasted	59	2 3	Heart disease.
15 to 19	15	"	67	6 36	Accident.	18	Much wasted	103	5 46	"
	20 22	"	177	7 45	Fractured spine.	19	Normal	140	4 28	Peritonitis.
	22	Slightly wasted	146	4 4	Rheumatic pericarditis.	20	Much wasted	—	1 51	Heart disease.
20 to 24	22	Much wasted	155	3 9	Acute tuberculosis.	23	Slightly wasted	—	4 24	Phthisis.
	22	Normal	—	8 19	Enteric fever.					
	24	Stout	210	3 3	Heart disease.					
25 to 29	25	Slightly wasted	—	5 37	"	25	Much wasted	—	4 33	Myelitis.
	26	Normal	176	7 55	Fractured spine.	25	"	110	4 10	Acute phthisis.
	27	Slightly wasted	—	4 22	Stricture of urethra.	25	Stout	127	4 32	Heart disease.
30 to 34	27	Much wasted	133	4 0	Pyæmia.					
	28	Slightly wasted	147	2 8	Bronchitis, emphysema.					
	29	Stout	170	3 24	Lithotomy.					
35 to 39	30	Much wasted	133	5 28	Cirrhosis of liver.					
	30	"	133	4 21	Tuberculosis.					
	31	Slightly wasted	182	5 18	Typhus.					
35 to 39	31	Much wasted	134	3 47	Phthisis.					
	33	Emaciated	130	6 4	Abscess of shoulder.					
	34	Much wasted	168	6 16	Aneurism of aorta.					
35 to 39	35	Slightly wasted	238	10 36	Cirrhosis of liver.	32	Slightly wasted	140	4 11	Blood cyst of spleen.
	35	Normal	147	5 57	Poisoning by mercuric chloride.					
	36	Slightly wasted	126	3 56	Phthisis.					
35 to 39	36	Emaciated	150	3 53	Heart disease.					
	38	Normal	149	5 7	Fractured skull.	38	Emaciated	114	3 6	Diabetes.
	38	Emaciated	118	2 56	Abdominal cancer.					
	38	Emaciated	118	2 41	Descent of uterus.					

41	Slightly wasted	—	3 36	Erysipelas.	42	Much wasted	119	2 46	Phthisis.
41	Much wasted	147	3 59	Phthisis.	43	Emaciated	119	4 51	"
42	Normal	139	6 40	Bronchitis and emphysema.	45	Stout	—	3 45	Strangulated hernia.
42	Emaciated	119	3 50	Phthisis.	46	Emaciated	112	2 35	Chronic Bright's disease.
43	Slightly wasted	168	2 51	"	49	Slightly wasted	139	2 50	Scirrhus of breast and lung.
43	"	210	9 16	Heart and kidney disease.	50	Much wasted	133	2 45	Capillary bronchitis.
45	Emaciated	126	3 17	Phthisis.	60	"	112	6 44	Chronic Bright's disease.
45	Normal	154	4 38	Aneurism of aorta.					
46	Much wasted	119	3 58	Phthisis.					
46	Edematous	224	3 59	Chronic Bright's disease.					
47	Slightly wasted	182	5 38	Heart disease.					
48	Stout	202	4 25	Cerebral hæmorrhage.					
49	Normal	—	5 11	Erysipelas.					
49	Much wasted	148	4 54	Chronic peritonitis.					
50	Normal	—	6 28	Shock.					
52	"	—	4 14	Comp. fracture of leg.					
52	"	168	7 20	Cancer of stomach.					
54	Much wasted	148	3 46	Acute tuberculosis.					
54	"	—	4 45	Cerebro-spinal meningitis.					
56	Normal	210	5 3	Bright's disease.					
56	"	173	3 30	Pyæmia.					
56	Much wasted	130	3 1	Chronic Bright's disease.					
58	Emaciated	—	2 23	Stricture of œsophagus.					
59	Much wasted	139	3 40	Bronchitis.					
60	Slightly wasted	—	6 9	Aneurism of aorta.					
61	Stout	184	2 23	Umbilical hernia.					
62	Much wasted	147	5 3	Prostatic disease, bronchitis.					
63	Slightly wasted	158	3 51	Cerebral hæmorrhage.					
65	Much wasted	127	3 46	Prostatic disease.					
69	Emaciated	160	3 5	Stricture of œsophagus.					
70	Normal	217	9 41	Prostatic disease.					
72	Much wasted	138	2 49	"					
74	"	217	2 56	Erysipelas from injury.					
74	Emaciated	130	3 41	Prostatic disease.					
79	Normal	133	3 26	Injury, run over.					