

EAR.

Mosher, H. P.—*Congenital Occlusion of the Cartilaginous Canal.* "Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.," July 15, 1909.

The author describes the interesting condition found in girl twins, aged four. In both the cartilaginous canal gradually tapered to a point, and about half an inch in became occluded. One twin had also, at birth, a malformation of the left lower eyelid. Exploratory operations were undertaken, and the descriptions of these, with the illustrations given, should be consulted in the original paper.

Macleod Yearsley.

Blake, C. F.—*Superficial Dermatitis of the External Auditory Canal.* "Boston Med. and Surg. Journ.," August 5, 1909.

The author details investigations made several years ago into the lines of movement made by the epidermal layer of the drumhead. A discussion upon superficial dermatitis follows.

Macleod Yearsley.

Wilson, J. Gordon.—*The Nerves and Nerve-endings in the Membrana Tympani.* "Journ. of Compar. Neurol. and Psychol.," vol. xvii, No. 6, 1907.

Most of the nerves entering from the external meatus pass down over Shrapnell's membrane towards the handle of the malleus. A smaller number enter at the limbus. These nerve-bundles break up to form a wide-meshed, non-medullated network in Shrapnell's membrane, from which numerous branches pass to similar rich plexuses and terminals in the membrana vibrans, around blood-vessels, in subcutaneous and sub-epithelial tissues and in epithelium. The tortuous and spiral branches, the delicate interlacement of fibrils, and the general arborisation which characterises the terminal distribution of the minute nerve-twigs are clearly depicted in an accompanying plate.

The author compares the system of distribution with that found in the cornea, and is inclined to suggest that in both cases the distribution has the effect of intensifying stimuli, so that even slight stimulation is interpreted by the sensorium as pain rather than as simple touch.

Investigating the source of the nerve-fibres in the membrane he states that in monkeys, at any rate, the supply is derived chiefly from the auriculo-temporal nerve and but to a slight extent from the vagus.

Dun McKenzie.

Dr. J. Tommasi.—*Researches on the Determination of the Auditory Power by New Methods of Measuring with Tuning-Forks.* "Bolletino delle mal. dell'Orecchio, Naso e gola," March, 1909, Florence.

The author, guided by the investigations made by Professors Stefanini and Gradenigo, has examined their method and adds the following conclusions:

The method of testing by tuning-forks furnishes the logarithmic decrease of vibrations for each tuning-fork of whatever tone.

The law of vibration is characteristic for each diapason and depends upon its dimensions, its form and the material of which it is made, that is to say, it is not the same for all tuning-forks which give the same note.

The test followed by different persons of normal hearing results in

the same value of logarithmic decrease provided that the conditions of the surrounding atmosphere are the same.

The result of the method of weight and that of the optic method agree well, provided that it is possible to make the comparison using portions of the curve of vibration by which the size of the vibrations shall be the same in the two methods.

The Stefanini-Gradenigo method strives to find the length of vibration corresponding to the beginning of the function of the auditory nerve.

The comparison between the length corresponding to the beginning of the function deduced from this method and from that of Straycken shows that the mere length of vibration of the tuning-fork is not sufficient to determine the minimum of energy necessary for producing the sensation of sound.

Grazzi.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Allport, F.—*A Plea for the Systematic and Universal Examination of School Children's Eyes, Ears, Noses and Throats.* "New Orleans Med. and Surg. Journ.," August, 1909.

A strong case is made out and suitable directions given as to the best method of carrying out the necessary examinations.

Macleod Yearsley.

Lewis, E. R. (Dubuque, Iowa).—*Negative Pressure as a Therapeutic Agent in Diseases of Nasal Accessory Sinuses, Throat, Ear and Mastoid.* "Arch of Otol.," December, 1908.

The author's experience leads him to consider induced hyperæmia as of great value. In the cases he reports the usual methods are employed along with the negative pressure.

Dundas Grant.

REVIEW.

Lehrbuch der Ohrenheilkunde für Ärzte und Studierende (Text-book of Otology for Practitioners and Students of Medicine). By Dr. PAUL OSTMANN, Professor of Medicine and Director of the University Polyclinic for the Ear, Nose and Throat in Marburg. (With 100 illustrations, 43 curves and 51 charts of hearing.) Leipzig: Vogel, 1909.

The name of Professor Paul Ostmann is familiar to all readers of contemporary current otological literature, more particularly in connection with his serious endeavours to provide us with a means of calculating the actual rate of diminution of the intensity of tone of the tuning-fork. It is familiar to all that the diminution of intensity is not in exact direct proportion to the duration, although most of our tuning-fork tests are carried out on this supposition, no doubt, however, with a due recognition of the amount of fallacy attaching to it. The question has been approached in various ways by different investigators, but Professor Ostmann adopted the visible method, namely by placing on the arm of the tuning-fork some shiny grains of flour and observing and measuring