

ŒSOPHAGUS.

Harmer, L. (Vienna).—*Contribution to the Use of the Œsophagoscope in a Case of Non-malignant Tumour of the Œsophagus.* "Wiener Kl. Rundschau," January 29, 1905.

Under the above heading Harmer gives details of a female patient, aged fifty-three, who for four years had had difficulty in swallowing solids, and who in consequence had lost weight and become very anæmic. On passing bougie No. 20 some resistance was felt about the level of the cricoid; this was easily overcome, the bougie passing without any further difficulty to the stomach. After removal of the bougie there was a good deal of hæmorrhage.

Œsophagoscopy was next done (without the use of cocaine); a tube of small bore was used, resistance being encountered at the same level as with the bougie. On looking through the tube, after carefully removing a good deal of fresh blood, one saw on the left wall of the œsophagus close to the end of the tube a round, smooth, and shiny tumour, about the size of a cherry.

The tube was gently pushed on 3 cm., when it was again checked, the growth itself projecting into the tube. From this it was concluded that the growth was probably a pedunculated fibroma. As the bleeding continued and the patient complained of pain, the tube was removed.

On again introducing the tube two days afterwards, much blood and clot was seen; on removing these the appearance presented was the same as at the previous examination. The onset of pain and hæmorrhage made it advisable to withdraw the tube, and it was suggested to remove the tumour by snaring at the next examination. By the end of two weeks the pain had entirely gone, and a wider tube was used to allow the introduction of a snare. This time no difficulty was met with, and on examination the mucous membrane from the cricoid cartilage to the cardia showed no abnormality.

There was no sign of the tumour or of its base. The tube having been removed, the patient after some persuasion swallowed solid food without any difficulty.

On examination two and a half months later, the mucous membrane was quite healthy. There can be no doubt that this growth was benignant, and that the use of the œsophagoscope favoured, if not caused, the necrosis of the pedicle.

Arthur Westerman.

E.A.R.

Alderton (Brooklyn).—*Some points respecting the Surgical Anatomy of the Facial Nerve.* "Arch. of Otol.," vol. xxxiii, No. 6.

Eighteen adult bones were carefully prepared and examined by horizontal sections, one on a level with the spina supra-meatum, and the other with the floor of the orifice of the osseous external auditory canal. The distance between the internal surface of the external wall of the facial canal (the outer surface of the facial nerve) and the spina supra-meatum was found to be on an average 15.9 mm., the minimum being 14.2 mm. and the maximum 20 mm. Combining these results with those obtained by Noltenius, the approximate average is 15.7 mm., the minimum 11 mm. The distance of the nerve from the postero-inferior angle of the external margin or orifice of the external auditory canal was on an

average 12.1 mm., the minimum being as little as 7.5 mm. The proximity of the vertical portion of the nerve to the posterior edge of the annulus tympanicus gave as a minimum 3 mm., while the distance between the posterior wall of the tympanic cavity and the nearest portion of the vertical part of the nerve averaged only 1.4 mm., the minimum being .5 mm. The method of injecting the facial canal with molten wax from the stylo-mastoid foramen showed that the material made its escape into the middle fossa of the skull through the hiatus Fallopii, and not through the internal auditory canal.

Dundas Grant.

Yearsley.—*The Constancy and the Varieties of the Spine of Henle.* "Rev. Hebdom.," January 14, 1905.

This is the record of a painstaking investigation into the varieties which the surgeon may encounter when using the spine as a guide to the antrum. Examination was made of the ears of one thousand individuals of various nationalities, and the results are embodied in tables. The spine was found to be wanting entirely in 160 ears, that is in 8 per cent. It was very insignificant in 12.51 per cent. As regards sex the spine was found to be absent more frequently in the female, but the difference was not very marked.

The writer proceeds to point out the superior value of the suprameatal fossa as a guide to the antrum, both on account of its constancy and because the spine of Henle is not always a safe guide to the antrum, even when present, as pointed out by Cheatele. The various appearances that the suprameatal fossa presents are referred to by the writer, such as the cribriform, the circular, the triangular, the fissured, the oval. The reason for the greater constancy in the presence of the suprameatal fossa appears to be owing to the fact that the spine of Henle is not in direct developmental connection with the tympanic ring. The writer has further investigated this point from the point of view of comparative anatomy and gives tabulated results of the examination of many species of monkeys. The paper is illustrated.

Albert A. Gray.

Mouret.—*Thrombo-phlebitis of the Lateral Sinus.* "Rev. Hebdom.," January 14, 1905.

This is chiefly interesting from the fact that the involvement of the sinus took place within six days of the middle-ear affection, a period of time which must surely be accounted a record. After ligation of the jugular vein and drainage of the sinus and of the bulb of the vein the patient recovered.

Albert A. Gray.

Moure and Brindel.—*Five Hundred Cases of Operation on the Mastoid Apophysis.* "Rev. Hebdom.," January 21, 1905.

An analysis of the conditions found in a large number of cases operated upon by the writers. The results are tabulated. The causes of death are found to be, in frequency, as follows: generalised meningitis, abscess of the brain, phlebitis, phthisis, pyæmia. The paper is of statistical value.

Albert A. Gray.

Viollet (Paris).—*Lupus and Epithelioma in an old Man.* "Rev. Hebdom.," February 27, 1905.

A long record of a case of epithelioma appearing in a patch of lupus

on the helix of the ear. Injection of material from the ulceration into a guinea-pig produced tuberculosis, while microscopic examination of the tissue showed unmistakably that the process was also malignant. Treatment consisted of curetting, applications of lactic acid, and dry boracic acid powder. Great improvement resulted. The bearings of the case in regard to diagnosis and prognosis are very fully discussed.

Albert A. Gray.

Ferran (Lyons).—*Sequestrum of the Wall of the Meatus*. "Rev. Hebdom.," February 27, 1905.

A carefully recorded case of necrosis of the wall of the meatus which produced the symptoms of antral disease. In addition to these, however, there was great pain on touching the auricle. Removal gave complete relief and the accompanying discharge was stopped. A very thorough review of the matter is given in this paper, and the bibliography is also exhaustive.

Albert A. Gray.

THERAPEUTICS.

Koch, F. (Berlin).—*The Therapeutic Use of Dressings Impregnated with Suprarenal Extract (Reniform Gauze and Wool)*. "Deutsch. Aerzte Zeitung," March 1, 1905.

The use of sterile gauze, or wool, impregnated with suprarenal extract is warmly recommended after operations in the nose. If one wishes to plug the nose firmly, as after operating on the inferior turbinate, the wool should be used. Gauze is more valuable for those cases in which, besides a hæmostatic effect, a certain amount of drainage is desired, as after operations on the septum.

A. Westerman.

Roger, B. Franklin, M.D. (Philadelphia).—*The Antitoxin Treatment of Diphtheria, with a Plea for Rational Dosage in Treatment*. "Therapeutic Gazette," April 15, 1905.

The author compares the prevalence of diphtheria and its mortality for a period of years preceding and following the introduction of antitoxin, using the statistics from New York City, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and Chicago. The results of his inquiry strikingly support the claims of serum therapy.

Roger considers that there is no excuse for neglecting to immunise those exposed to diphtheria, and he pleads for the more general use of antitoxin as a prophylactic measure in a dose proportionate to the amount of exposure and time of exposure.

Macleod Yearsley.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Transactions of the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the American Laryngological Association. New York, 1904.

The Medical Annual: A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index. Bristol: John Wright and Co. 1905. 7s. 6d. net.

Carl Zarniko, M.D. *Die Krankheiten der Nase und des Nasenrachsens*. Berlin: S. Karger. 1905.