

and condylomata. H. Fistula. I. Caries. K. Malignant disease—Osteosarcoma, cancer and fungus."

It will be perceived that otorrhœa, or a purulent discharge from the ear, accompanies different diseases of the external auditory passage. There are also various affections of the membrana and cavitas tympani, which result in the production of this disgusting discharge. The prognosis in cases of otorrhœa ought to be very guarded, as it sometimes leads, when neglected, to inflammation of the meninges of the brain, and thus terminates the life of the patient. At the best, it is a most tedious disease, requiring constant and long-continued treatment to effect its eradication. A foolish opinion originating with and fostered by the profession, has long been prevalent among the people, that it is dangerous to interfere with a discharge from the ear. By many it is looked upon as a salutary effort of nature to eject some peccant matter, which, if retained, might be attended with serious results to the individual. Every facility, therefore, in their opinion, should be given to its exit. Others, again, dread a metastasis to the brain, should it be suppressed. Mr. Wilde, after a careful examination of the cases recorded by authors, in which it has been asserted that head symptoms supervened on the arrest of the discharge, says:—"In fine, I have not been able to discover one well-authenticated instance where disease of the head supervened as a consequence of checking otorrhœa in a case where the condition of the ear had been previously ascertained, and that disease of the bone had not existed beforehand." (P. 386.)

In the treatment of otorrhœa, cleanliness should be strictly enforced. The habit of keeping a plug of cotton wool in the ear should be discontinued, as many cases are very much aggravated by the filthiness resulting from the accumulated matter. The ear should be syringed out carefully twice a day, or oftener, with tepid water. "In simple external otorrhœa, I generally paint the surface engaged with a solution of nitrate of silver, ten grains to the ounce, with a fine camel's hair pencil, or a bit of cotton on the end of a probe, which I find far preferable to the old practice of dropping in the solution. This application should be repeated every second day; and every day a slightly astringent lotion may be poured into the ear till it fills up the meatus, allowed to remain there for a few minutes with the head bent to the opposite side, and then permitted to run out. . . . If upon examination we find the meatus thickened, and it and the surface of the membrana tympani thick and vascular, a leech or two, according to the age and strength of the patient, should be applied every third day, several times. When the discharge is fetid, a chloride of lime lotion used occasionally is of service, being slightly astringent, and correcting the disagreeable smell." (p. 368.)

When otorrhœa has existed for any length of time polypus growths