

It is to the first mentioned variety or stage of post-nasal catarrh, marked by an abnormal formation and discharge of mucous, that we will confine our remarks in this paper. This is the kind of catarrh which is properly named if we have regard for the etymological origin of the word, and this is further the kind which might most properly be styled the American disease, because of its proportionately greater frequency in this country as compared to other countries.

The accumulation of mucus seen so often in the cavum is at times partly derived from the nasal cavities, but it would be manifestly wrong, considering the mucous glands situated here, to say that the nose was the only or even the chief source. For without doubt we can have a condition of inflammation of the naso-pharyngeal mucous membrane with general engorgement and congestion of vessels and glands and consequent abnormal secretions of mucus. We will see the mucus especially abundant in the crypts of the pharyngeal tonsil and about the situation of the Eustachian tubes. It runs down the posterior wall of the pharynx, causing the patient to be constantly hawking and clearing the throat. Besides the real annoying symptoms, and besides the real evil consequences to the ears, larynx, and lower respiratory tract, the patient has also always many imaginary ills.

It seems strange in view of this and of the great prevalence of the affection that more has not been attempted in the way of giving relief. Of course, whenever nasal stenosis co-exists, this, first of all, should be overcome, as this alone may be accountable for the post-nasal catarrh. Prophylactic measures and constitutional treatment are not generally to be slighted, but we wish here only to make some observations on the local treatment. There is but little variety in the way the post-nasal catarrh is treated all over the world, viz., cleaning of the post-nasal space by an antiseptic alkaline irrigation or spray followed by the application of astringents. The lead and zinc salts, alum, nitrate of

silver, tannin and iodine preparation in solution or powder are those most in vogue. Morrell Mackenzie liked a preparation of eucalyptus gum. Meyjes, of Amsterdam, has recommended ichthyol one-half per cent. solution. Nitrate of silver is of all of these, in my opinion, the most serviceable in that kind of catarrh under discussion, applied by means of cotton swab in one or two per cent. solution. But it must be admitted that the results are at the best unsatisfactory and the patient often returns to us day after day with but little change. It is for this reason that we must admit into our pharmacopœia any new drug which empirically or theoretically seems to promise good results. The excellent success which I have seen reported from the administration internally of Tannigen in intestinal catarrh by Meyer, of Marburg, Kunkler, Escherich and others, led me to anticipate that it would be a suitable agent for local use in post-nasal catarrh. It is the observation of Escherich that Tannigen was not applicable to that form of intestinal catarrh attended with watery projectile stools, but in that of a true catarrhal nature, when there was hypersecretion of mucus, it proved of inestimable value. Tannigen is an acetic acid ester of tannin, discovered by Professor Meyer. It is a yellowish-grey powder, tasteless and odorless, insoluble in water, but readily in alkaline solution. It will be found much more elegant than tannin and much less irritating. The latter is an important qualification, for most of the astringents in the strength in which they are employed when applied to the sensitive mucous membrane of the nasal tract, prove irritating, causing the patient to sneeze

This is especially true of sozo-iodol zinc which is so highly endorsed by Prof. Moritz Schmidt. Tannigen, I have observed, will not produce this effect even when undiluted. A recital of the cases in which I have made trial of this agent would possess too few points of interest to be given in detail. It is, therefore, only to be said that Tannigen, in all cases in which it has been used, proved highly