

ber of them, in arresting the progress of the disease, and in preventing thus an infirmity henceforth incurable, which must ever cause grief to the parents' heart.

Prognosis.—The prognosis of this affection is, we think, according to the extent or the seat of lesion; thus the inflammation may occupy the whole surface of the canal, and it may present less of gravity than if it occupied a position even the most limited, in the neighbourhood of the tympanum; in the first case the ear may be for a long time diseased without inducing any disorder of the hearing, while, in the second, it is rare that the tympanic membrane, whether by the continued contact with pus, or by the extension of the inflammation, does not finish by injuring itself, and by compromising, later on, the function of the organ. Besides, another circumstance which renders these ulcerations at the bottom of the canal very much more serious than those which are developed in the regions nearer to the meatus, is this: we know that the glands which secrete the cerumen do not extend beyond the external two-thirds of the canal, and that beyond, the flesh is extremely slight, very red, very sensitive, and applied almost directly upon the bone, from which it is separated only by a very thin layer of the cellular tissue. It follows, from this anatomical disposition, of the greatest importance in auricular pathology, that all that portion of the canal which is provided with glandular tissues may be for a long period diseased, without the subjacent bone being affected; while, in a region lower down, the slightest ulceration of the skin attacks, pretty soon, the periosteum and the bone, if we do not promptly arrest its progress. * * * * *

Treatment.—The first indication to be fulfilled consists in making a careful examination of the canal, in order to ascertain the seat of disease and the degree of its extent. But in general, when we are consulted, it is seldom that the patients, large or small, have not the canal obstructed with matter; it is on this account that we must devote three or four days to these preliminary cases, consisting in cleansing perfectly the canal and in freeing it from all the matters which may conceal the ulcerations; it is for this purpose that I recommend the patient to take, three or four times a-day, ear baths of poppy water, then to make with the same liquid; injections, pretty strong, so that the liquid, in returning upon itself, may bring with it all the foreign matters. * * * * *

So long as there is no suppuration, it is less essential that the injections penetrate into the interior, but the case is different when pus is thrown out from an ulcerated surface, especially if deeply situated. We can easily understand that if, while the meatus is obstructed by the engorgement of tissues, the suppuration accumulating in the lowest portions of