

## PERISCOPEIC DEPARTMENT.

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Surgery.

## ON SYRINGING THE EAR.

Dr. Roosa, of New York, has the following remarks in *The Medical Record* on this simple yet important operation :

“ There is a proper and an improper way of syringing the ear, simple procedure as it is. If we use one of the miserable little glass syringes, so commonly sold for injecting the meatus, without taking hold of the auricle at the same time, in order to straighten the auditory canal, the upper wall of which, in a normal condition, falls down toward the lower or anterior wall, very little of the fluid will enter the ear.

If, again, the vessel in which the water is to be returned from the ear be not properly held, the fluid will run over the patient's neck, and cause very unpleasant sensations.

In order to syringe the ear properly, a hard rubber syringe should be used, and a thin bowl be held close under the lobe of the ear well up into the fossa at the articulation of the lower jaw with the temporal bone. The patient himself, if he be a large child, or an adult, will hold the bowl better than an assistant. The surgeon then straightens the meatus by gently pulling the auricle in an upward direction with one hand, while with the other he uses the syringe. It is well to allow the water to first pass into the concha of the auricle, and not immediately into the canal, in order that the patient may judge as to the temperature of the water, which should be lukewarm. The ear will not usually tolerate a cold fluid.

Performed with a good syringe, and with such precautions as have been named, syringing the ear becomes very pleasant to the person who is subjected to it. Children who have already been to a physician who has manipulated in the auditory canal with a forceps or other instrument, will, of course, object to the syringing, from fear of pain ; but if no such attempts have been made, the youngest child can soon be coaxed out of any unwillingness to submit to the operation. I was once, however, compelled to etherize a child, in order to remove a pea by syringing, which had been previously hunted for with instruments.

It is theoretically reasonable that the injection of water is a potent agent in removing a foreign body from the ear. It is sufficient to remove a plug of wax, which has been impacted for years, and which has completely plugged up the auditory canal. How much more potent must be the stream of water, when there is sufficient space through which it may