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## Original Communications.

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### FURTHER NOTES ON MASTOIDITIS, WITH CASES.\*

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An experience of fifteen cases of mastoiditis in little more than three years is my excuse for bringing this subject once more before the Association. I will not bore you with a recital of my cases in detail, but will try to give a general analysis of them.

The age of these patients varied from one year to fifty-seven years. Of the fifteen cases, ten required the mastoid operation.

*Causes.*—In six of the cases, a severe cold may be ascribed as the cause, since there was apparently nothing else to which to ascribe it. In five the patients had sharp attacks of lagrippe. Three cases followed old-standing discharge from the ear, and one was due to improper use of the nasal douche. Just here let me condemn the custom of “sniffing up” irritating solutions into the nose, as many cases of acute middle ear inflammation are caused thereby.

*Symptoms.*—These have varied considerably, especially in the early stages. In those following O. M. P. C., all have been the same—a gradual lessening of the amount of the aural discharge, and a gradually increasing pain referred to the mastoid region. Then a swelling appeared behind the ear, which either “broke” or was opened.

In the other cases, all at first complained of earache more or less severe. Then pain was referred to the back of the ear, and the mastoid became tender to pressure. In all cases where the drum ruptured spontaneously, there was immediate relief so far as the earache was concerned, while the pain back of the ear was little changed.

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\*Read at meeting of Medical Society of Nova Scotia, Antigonish, July 2nd, 1903.