

use of instruments, has not been resorted to, it is easy to remove such foreign bodies. In grown persons there is no need of anesthesia, but in children, even with the gentle stream of water from a syringe, I believe it is better to bring them under the influence of an anesthetic. Otherwise the foreign body may be driven so far back that it will be difficult to remove.

If it is attempted to remove a foreign body by means of forceps, it will slip from the grasp and be forced farther back in the canal, and every attempt made with the forceps may force the foreign body just that much nearer the drum membrane. The probe, slightly bent, is sometimes used and may also force the foreign body back. The fact is, foreign bodies have been thus forced back against the drumhead, and even into the drum cavity itself. Another thing in connection with the instrumental removal of foreign bodies is that the canal will probably be injured and we will have bleeding and swelling. None of these things will take place if we remove the foreign body by means of the syringe. It is, of course, possible to drive the foreign body back in the canal with a syringe, but not so if proper care in directing the stream is taken. The stream of water should be directed where there is most space between the foreign body and canal wall, and then, as the return flow comes back, the foreign body usually comes with it. The position of the head, of course, can aid. If we find the foreign body so large as to almost fill the auditory canal, we may aid the stream of water by posing of the head, by inclining the head toward the side in which the foreign body is located. Bugs not infrequently get into the ears of grown people and sometimes of children. When a live creature like a bug gets into the auditory canal we should first destroy its life, which is best accomplished by pouring oil into the ear, preferably castor oil or olive oil; or if there is no oil at hand we may use warm water and simply drown the bug.

Now we come to the study of accumulation of wax in the ear, which is nothing more nor less than a foreign body. In one case one ear had been plugged with wax for some thirty years, the patient being a maiden lady; but usually, when the ear is filled with wax, the patient is so deaf that he or she will seek relief sooner. These patients are so annoyed by the deafness and the noises that they often come at once to the physician or aurist to get relief. For a long while I tried to soften the old accumulations of wax with a solution of bicarbonate of sodium, glycerine and water. I would tell the patients to take a pinch of bicarbonate of sodium, a tea-