

5. Relapses are to be looked for here no less than after other processes, but are to be least apprehended when the treatment has been thoroughly carried out—i. e., has terminated in complete and uniform cicatrization.

6. This method is indicated in the most extended form of lupus, whether occurring on the face, the body or the extremities, and is especially suitable in neglected cases which have received little or no previous treatment.

7. The affected surfaces after healing retain their redness for a considerable period. The discoloration gradually fades, however, and its disappearance can sometimes be hastened by using an ointment of bismuth of zinc."—*Glasgow Med. Jour.*

A NEW METHOD FOR APPLYING REMEDIES TO THE EAR.

By C. L. MITCHELL, M. D.

Under the title "Ear Cones" the writer desires to call attention to a new series of preparations for the local treatment of diseases of the ear. They are especially fitted for the application of remedies in otitis externa; acute, sub-acute and chronic otitis media purulenta; sub-acute complicated and chronic inflammation of the cavity of the tympanum; and in fact all sub-acute or chronic aural inflammations attended with muco-purulent discharges. also offer a convenient and efficient method for applying different sedative remedies in painful conditions, and for treating the various forms of eczema, pruritus, and other troubles which affect the external auditory canal.

These remedies as their name implies, are in the shape of a truncated cone $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long; $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in diameter at the larger end, and $\frac{1}{16}$ inch in diameter at the smaller end, which is rounded.

These cones are made of medicated gelatin and when placed in the cavity of the ear, melt slowly and thus bring the medicating ingredient into operation upon the surrounding parts. When used they should be greased or dipped in warm water for a few seconds, and then gently pushed into the ear (the small end first), either by the fingers or with a small pair of forceps.

The idea of these preparations is not original with the writer, for he is familiar with the fact that for a number of years similar preparations have been in use in the Ear Clinic of the Vienna general hospital, by Prof. Joseph Gruber, the distinguished aurist. He believes, however, he is the first one to introduce them to the American medical profession, and considers that the conical shape, as above suggested, will be found to be more convenient and advantageous than that of the balls almonds, as employed by Prof. Gruber.

The Ear Cones should be a very convenient method of treatment for aural troubles, and by the length of time they remain in the auricular cavity should cause a very thorough and prolonged action of the remedy. Drops and solutions exercise but a transient effect, ointments are troublesome to apply, and act slowly, so that there would seem to be ample room in the therapeutics of the

ear for a better method of local treatment. With children and nervous patients particularly they should obviate much troublesome manipulation and hence be very gratifying to both patient and doctor.

As regards their actual therapeutic value the writer is not yet able to speak with authority. They have been employed to a limited extent by Prof. Lawrence Turnbull, in the ear clinics of the Jefferson College Hospital, with excellent results, but a more extended and thorough trial is necessary before positive and authoritative statements can be made. Attention is now called to their evident advantage, and the future verdict remains to be pronounced by the members of the medical profession, who will doubtless give them a careful and thorough trial. In conclusion, a short abstract from the pen of Prof. Gruber, (*Wiener Allgemeinen Zeitung*) concerning these gelatin ear preparations, may not be considered out of place:

"I have recently been investigating some new methods of treating diseases of the ear by means of medicated gelatin preparations. These were prepared for the external auditory canal in a manner similar to the nasal bougies suggested by Prof. Catti, and which have been spoken of in the highest terms. According to my instructions they were made in the shape of little balls, or of almonds, and contained different quantities of various remedies, such as sulphate zinc, boric acid, bichloride mercury, iodoform, etc. In painful affections, I employed those medicated with ext. opium aq., or with morphia.

"These preparations can be applied with the utmost ease. After suitable cleansing or syringing of the auditory canal, they are put in position by the fingers, or, with the assistance of a small pair of forceps, and then pushed back into the auditoroy cavity, if necessary, by a small camel's hair brush. The external orifice is then to be plugged up with charpie and the remedy left in the passage. There it gradually liquefies and operates gently and for a long time on the diseased structures.

"As the result of my employment of these preparations, I unhesitatingly say that I consider them necessary and even indispensable in otological practice. In properly selected cases I have obtained better results by their employment than by any other method of applying remedies which I have ever followed. Especially can I commend their use in exudative inflammation of the middle ear attended with perforation of the tympanum; in these cases the swollen and stiffened mucuous membrane of the cavum tympani renders such remedies exceedingly desirable.

"By the gentle and gradual liquefaction of these remedies they can be allowed to remain in the passage for a long time without harm to the patient, and their indicated effect is so augmented by the protracted contact of the gelatin, that the medicated applications require to be made with much less frequency.—*Clinical Notes.*