

cases, a positive diagnosis cannot be made, unless a careful examination of the membrana tympani and external auditory passage be first instituted. When, therefore, a patient complains of "singing in the ears," it is immediately attributed to an accumulation of wax, and the ear is consequently syringed without mercy. When deafness is complained of, purging, blistering behind the ear, and various stimulant applications to the external passage, are had recourse to. "The old popular superstition," says Mr. Wilde, "of placing in the meatus a little black wool, procured from the left fore-foot of a six-year-old black ram, is still extensively resorted to." And we have frequently seen him patiently remove from the ears of persons presenting themselves at St. Mark's Hospital, numerous particles of black wool which were adhering to the sides of the meatus, and sometimes to the surface of the membrana tympani. When the symptom of pain in the ear is present, then it must be otalgia, and laudanum and oil are dropped into the ear instantaneously.

In the first chapter, Mr. Wilde enters very fully into the bibliography of his subject, and while, with characteristic generosity, he gives credit to whom credit is due, he does not spare those whose opinions savour in the least of quackery. Turnbull and his reviewers, we perceive, come in for a dose of keen satirical criticism, which, to say the least, they richly deserve. This gentleman published a work in 1837, in which he recommended, as a "cure for deafness," the application of veratria to the meatus and parts around the auricle. Most astonishing cures were reported as having been effected by this mode of treatment. Not only was the hearing of persons, afflicted with deafness the result of disease, restored; but, more wonderful still, deaf mutes, born into the world with the avenues of hearing locked up, and the organ of speech silent, were made both to hear and speak! These miracles, for less they cannot be considered, were asserted by respectable journalists as having been performed through the agency of the alkaloid; and Dr. Turnbull was all but canonized, by Chambers' Journal, for curing the deaf and dumb. The history of the veratria cure affords another lamentable instance of how unprofessional men, of great intellectual abilities, will allow their prejudices to get the better of their judgment whenever they form incorrect conclusions on subjects connected with the practice of medicine.

Glycerine, first introduced to the notice of the profession by Mr. Wakley, has been extensively employed during the last four years in various affections of the ear. To the routinist it proved a very acceptable windfall. Was the integument of the meatus dry or moist, scaly or thickened; was there an increase or decrease in the secretion of the ceruminous glands, glycerine must be applied. Was the membrana tympani imperforate or complete, thickened and pale, or thickened and