

not to allow the water to pass behind it. This, however, can only be ascertained by trial with the syringe. Many cases when examined by the speculum appear to be in this condition, but on using the syringe the foreign bodies are readily discharged. If, after continued syringing, the foreign substance is not removed, its position can sometimes be changed by the pointed end of a curette, or probe, when the syringe can again be used with greater probability of success. Only a very slight change in the position of a body is usually sufficient to ensure its removal with the syringe. Sometimes, however, the syringing has to be continued for a long time before it is successful.

With infants and young children great difficulty is often experienced in preventing violent movements of the head during the attempt at removal. An effort to straighten the canal even may be followed by a change in the position of the patient's head. When the passage is inflamed, the pain attending the removal may be very severe. Under these circumstances the use of ether will be found not only of great advantage, but frequently indispensable.

Cases requiring the exclusive use of instruments, are very rare. A most thorough trial of the syringe should always be made first. Instruments are, however, occasionally of great assistance, and sometimes absolutely necessary. To use them with safety the external auditory passage requires to be thoroughly illuminated; unless this can be effected, there is danger of producing more injury than might result from allowing the body to remain. A pair of rectangular forceps furnished with teeth will be found of great service for the removal of substances which admit of being grasped, as paper, cotton, etc. The principal risk in their use is the danger of pushing the body further into the canal. This can be avoided generally by fixing it with the pointed end of the curette, before grasping it with the forceps.

The curette and other instruments are sometimes used as levers, by making a fulcrum of the walls of the canal. This method of procedure should always be avoided. If the body is but a short distance in the meatus it can be removed more easily and with less risk than by this method. If the body is well advanced in the canal such a course can do no good, and may be of positive injury to the soft parts. Cases which seem to require the use of instruments in this manner, can be best treated by fixing the body with the curette, and then grasping it with the forceps as above described.

After the removal of foreign bodies there is generally considerable vascularity not only of the meatus, but of the membrana tympani. This is often due to the irritation produced by the foreign substances, but it is