

Publishers' Department.

A NEW INSTRUMENT FOR THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF THE NOSE, THROAT AND MIDDLE EAR.

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IN view of the almost universal prevalence, in one form or another, of the class of diseases under consideration, and the serious and far-reaching results which follow their neglect or inefficient treatment; and notwithstanding the fact that the field has already been entered by many of the ablest men in the medical profession, I offer no apology in presenting before you the instrument which I shall endeavor to describe.

If you will go back with me just thirty years we will arrive at a point in the history of medical science which is marked by one of the most important discoveries ever made in respiratory therapeutics.

I refer to the discovery of nebulization made by Dr. Oliver in 1866. The doctor found that by driving an atomized spray from a liquid of certain consistency against a hard, smooth surface, the minute drops were broken into infinitely smaller particles, thus transforming the liquid into a semi-gaseous state and producing a true visible vapor, or nebula, as he termed it.

This vapor, while it is so light as to remain suspended for a long time in the air, yet contains all the elements of the original solution, the non-volatile as well as the volatile. By producing a spray within a closed vessel the vapor is retained, and may be conducted through tubes for inhalation or application in various other ways.

In this manner medicinal agents of every character may be applied in actual substance to the respiratory mucous membrane in that state of infinite subdivision upon which our Homeopathic friends lay so much stress, and which, while we do not believe it changes the character of action, yet undoubtedly increases the activity and favors perfect distribution.

At the time Dr. Oliver announced his discovery the rank and file of the medical profession were not sufficiently progressive to take up a new method and demonstrate its value by clinical experiment, and hence it came but slowly into general use.

Among those who early recognized the value of the principle of nebulization in respiratory therapeutics was Prof. J. Solis Cohen, of Philadelphia, who demonstrated its usefulness both by clinical and laboratory experiments.

During the past eight years I have constantly used in my practice nebulizers of various forms. The results obtained have led me to regard the method with continually increasing favor.