

## THE PHONOGRAPH FOR DEAFNESS.

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A new method of treatment of deafness, which promises to be of great utility is the use of the phonograph, which can be used as follows: Specially prepared wax cylinders are used, in which depressions have been made at intervals, by means of a stylus, the result of each depression being a sound shock of varying intensity, according to the depth of the mark made, and the number of revolutions made by the cylinder. Thus the sound is intrinsic, and not derived from outside sources. It acts by focussing the rhythmic sound shocks upon the membrana tympani; acting as a message to the aural conducting apparatus, breaking down recent adhesions, and is seemingly very beneficial. The writer made a number of experiments last week, and demonstrated to a number of medical gentlemen, the utility of this method of treatment. The Edison Phonograph Co. kindly placing one of their instruments at his disposal, six patients underwent the process, five expressing themselves as being benefited.

*Mr. W.*, otitis med. cat. chronica, of 6 years standing, both ears watch heard; 2 in. right ear; 4 in., left ear; after 15 minutes listening to the phonograph, right ear, watch, 6 in.; left ear, 7 inches. This was without inflation.

*Mr. M.*, O. M. C. acuta, left ear, watch heard, 1 inch., after treatment watch heard 4 inches, quite a marked improvement. In both these cases the Politzer gave but little relief, etc.

The writer feels confident that there is a great future for the phonograph in the treatment of middle ear affections, and will be pleased to communicate directions for preparing cylinders to any medical man who would like to investigate for himself. This communication is purposely brief as the discovery is in the experimental stage as yet.

THE ODOR OF IODOFORM can be removed from the hands and other parts, it is asserted, by washing thoroughly with linseed-meal water.

## Selected Articles.

### ULCERS OF THE LEG AND VARICOSE VEINS.

The object of this paper is to call attention to a very simple and successful method of treating ulcers of the leg and varicose veins. It has proved, after an extensive trial, very satisfactory in the relief and cure of that rather difficult class of cases.

This method was suggested by a paper of the late Professor Gamgee, of Birmingham, which appeared in the *Lancet* several years ago, on "The Treatment of Recent Wounds of the Leg by Dry and Infrequent Dressings." In substance, it is an adaption of his method to the treatment of ulcers. It is very simple and comparatively easy of application—in fact so simple, that any intelligent and competent person can use it, if the idea is correctly grasped. The advantage of practice is, however, very great, and in every town of any size, a medical man who would devote some little time and care to become proficient in its application, would obtain considerable practice and be the means of giving great relief to many a wretched sufferer. All the cases reported were treated in the city of Manchester, England, but during the last two years many cases have been treated in Canada and the United States, with even more satisfactory results.

In a short paper like this, it would be quite out of place to give any detailed description of the anatomy of the leg or of the circulation in it. It will be quite enough to notice that in the leg the arterial blood has the force of gravity to help it, and the returning or venous blood has this force to overcome. This is one of the great difficulties in treating diseases of the leg; the other is the injury to the general health ensuing from the enforced rest which is usually taken during their treatment. This injury is most marked in elderly persons inclined to stoutness. In health the disadvantage under which the venous circulation labors is counteracted by the strength of the coatings of the veins and the number of valves placed in them, which cause the contractions of the muscles surrounding the veins to force the blood upward. But when disease and pain occur more blood is carried to the limb by the arteries, and the muscles are used much less freely; the blood in this way overloads and distends the veins, so adding to the existing mischief. In course of time the veins become like India rubber tubing which has been over-stretched and has lost almost all its elasticity.

The method by which the writer has succeeded in many cases in relieving that state of affairs, without requiring any rest in bed or cessation of