

a free incision behind the auricle allowed the escape of a large amount of pus from the tissues. The periosteum being then opened and pushed back freely, the mastoid cavity was freely opened by chiseling. The bone was unusually hard, and made this part of the operation very tedious. The chiseling was carried well forward, so that very free communication with the meatus and middle ear was assured. There were no traces of cell walls in the mastoid cavity, which was closely packed with cholesteatomatous masses; these were thoroughly scooped out and washed out and the wound well stuffed with iodoform gauze.

Since this operation the sinus in neck has healed, no more polypi have appeared in the meatus, the temperature has been very nearly normal and no pain except an occasional headache. The parts have been irrigated every day with bichloride solution followed by hydrogen peroxide and then stuffed with iodoform or mercuric gauze, and the wound has steadily and slowly healed until, at the end of three weeks, there was only a small sinus left, this being carefully kept open to allow irrigation. Ten days after the operation, after a severe headache and during a severe bilious attack, the eyelid was noticed to be slow in moving, and the next day there was a considerable paresis of all the parts supplied by the left facial nerve. This condition remained stationary for a week and then gradually improved until, at the end of three weeks, it was hardly noticeable, though not yet wholly recovered from.

CASE II.—J., male; 23 years old; has had some little middle ear pain a few times in his life, but nothing of consequence till June, '94, when he had severe pain in and behind the left ear. At my first visit I punctured the membrana tympani, finding very little fluid in the middle ear, but relief of pain followed, and a copious purulent discharge began and continued for some three days, when it ceased and the patient went out of town considering himself well. Late in July the pain returned, especially severe in the mastoid region, but was much relieved by leeches and the application day and night of cold by means of the Leiter coil. Recurrent attacks of pain, however, and the persistence of redness and moderate swelling and tenderness over the mastoid seemed to call for relief, and Aug. 20th, I proceeded to operate in the usual manner for opening the mastoid cavity, but after the first incision and the raising of the periosteum I found nature had anticipated me by making a large sinus (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter) through the bone, providing free communication with the middle ear so that fluids injected into the opening found exit, both through the external auditory meatus and through the Eustachian tube in the throat.

Recovery has been uneventful thus far, and with the same treatment detailed in Case I is nearly

complete.—George H. Powers, M.D., in *Pacific Med. Jour.*

## THE PRIMITIVE INSTINCTS OF THE MODERN CHILD.

Now that the doctrine of evolution has been placed beyond the realm of mere hypothesis, the inductive reasoning whereby its principles were established may yield somewhat to the use of deductive method; attempt to ascertain the nature of things being made by generalizations from universal to particular. The field of pathology still holds treasures that will be yielded to the investigator by this method, and how much can be gathered in biological fields is indicated by the interesting article in *The North American Review*, for November, by Doctor Louis Robinson, upon the primitive child.

Two most striking characteristics of the newborn child are its prehensile fingers and its fat, plump rotundity of body. The prehensile fingers betray a manifest simian trait, an index of pithecoïd ancestry. How comes the new-born babe to be the fat, plump creature, whose mother exhibits with pride its elephantine limbs? Young monkeys are thin and slight, and their mothers convey them easily from branch to branch. The fatness of babies is a distinctly human characteristic. The use of adipose is that of providing a resource in time of need. Fat animals usually hibernate. Scarcity of food was a frequent complication of the life of primitive man. By becoming fat in prosperous times the body would be able to survive "the hard times." In the struggle for existence fat babies would survive and fat babyhood would inherit inevitable tendencies in bioplasm favorable to the reappearance of a fat type. The fat baby is indeed the melancholy monument of untold suffering, struggle and agony, whereby the human race has secured its survival.

Another typical habit of the little child is that of picking at small objects and putting them into its mouth—a faint echo of the day when the parental hunters, scouring the country for food, left the child to make gastronomical experiments among the *debris* on the floor of the cave, or among the caterpillars in the grass.

The majority of babies are pleasing to the eye. They have a style of beauty distinctly their own, decidedly superior to that of young monkeys. Infantile beauty is a post-arboreal trait, and required special selective agencies for its creation. Yet it is easily explained. The ugly duckling never gets a fair chance. The prettiest children are the most petted, and in a state of society in which, during disastrous times, many would be sacrificed, the prettiest would stand the best chance of surviving—would be the ones most constantly saved by the mother.