

DISEASES OF THE ACCESSORY CAVITIES OF THE NOSE.

WITHIN the last few years the diseases of the accessory cavities of the nose have assumed an importance commensurate with the recent great strides that have been made over the whole field of surgery. It is quite clear to those whose attention has been directed to this special subject, that hitherto a great many of these cases have escaped notice and that even now some are not detected and, therefore, not successfully treated. At least this is my personal experience, and it furnishes the reason for this article.

If one consults text-books on the nose and throat, published as recently as 1889, it will be found that either these diseases are not mentioned at all or are dismissed with a word. Those works published since the above date contain, however, a more or less satisfactory consideration of the subject.

The cavities in question are the maxillary sinuses or antra of Highmore, the frontal, ethmoidal, and sphenoidal sinuses.

EMPYÆMA OF THE ANTRUM.

This is undoubtedly the most common of these affections and, though described by John Hunter, it is only within the last ten years that it has been fully investigated. Even now it is not properly recognized by dental and medical practitioners.

Etiology.—There is difference of opinion that dental caries is the main cause; while those who see a great many cases of diseases of the nose maintain that it is the seat of origin. This discrepancy of opinion is no doubt due to the fact that the dentist is consulted when this condition is associated with toothache; the surgeon, when a swollen face is the troublesome symptom; and the nose specialist when the patient is suffering from a discharge from, or obstruction in the nose.

In my own experience the origin of the empyæma has seemed to be dental caries and the troublesome symptoms in the