

dition, the ear will be found to be very sensitive. The use of the speculum auris at this time will give rise to excruciating pain, and will be likely to be followed by considerable hæmorrhage. Under these circumstances all attempts at removal should be deferred, until the acute symptoms have subsided. Great relief will often be afforded by the application of leeches in front and below the external meatus, warm fomentations, etc. Occasionally, when suppuration begins, there will be a spontaneous discharge of the foreign substance.

In most cases foreign bodies are lodged in the angular portion of the canal; the exceptional cases being those where, from unsuccessful attempts at removal, they have been pushed through the membrana tympani, or where that membrane, from previous inflammation, or ulceration induced at the time by the pressure of the foreign bodies, has been perforated and has allowed them to pass beyond it. One would suppose that that it would be impossible for a judicious practitioner to produce this result. This accident is, however, not uncommon, and can doubtless in most cases be traced to attempts at removal with instruments when the ear was poorly illuminated.

It is rare for foreign bodies to remain long in the tympanic cavity without producing serious symptoms. These will be modified somewhat by the nature of the substance, and the condition of the tympanum. If this has been previously disorganized by inflammation, as in most cases of otitis interna, less trouble will probably ensue, than when it is in its normal condition. Beans and peas, the foreign bodies most frequently met with in the ear, are, from the facility with which they swell, most likely to produce fatal results. Undoubtedly in some cases the fatal result is due to the violent manipulations to which the ears have been subjected by the friends of patients, or to their not having consulted the surgeon, until inflammation and swelling have ensued, which rendered their removal extremely difficult or perhaps impossible.

When a patient is presented with a suspected foreign body in the ear, it is of great importance to examine thoroughly the auditory canal: much useless syringing may thus be avoided. By the improved method of Troeltsch this examination is possible at all times, and brings to view the whole of the meatus, and if necessary the tympanum.

Too much cannot be said in favor of the syringe for the removal of foreign bodies, of whatever kind, from the ear. As a rule it will be found successful; the exceptional cases are indeed very rare. Most authors agree as to its great advantages over all other instruments. Yet, to judge from the cases presented at the Infirmary, one is led to believe that practically it is not much relied upon by the profession. With the syringe,