

was made in each case, with the result that streptococcus was found to be far the most common cause of the disease.

In ten cases streptococcus was found in pure culture. In one case streptococcus was found mixed with staphylococcus and proteus.

In one case staphylococcus aureus was found.

In one case there was no growth, and this was probably due to delay in getting the culture tube over to the laboratory.

As regards race—the children were all of foreign parentage, and all Jews.

They all had a swelling behind the auricle and in most cases an actual abscess. I performed the same operation in every case, namely, a free incision of the soft parts behind the ear so as to expose the bone thoroughly. After this had been done a carious spot was usually to be seen in the latter, generally at a point above the level of the bony meatus and quite a distance behind the latter. This carious opening (or spot in some cases) was enlarged with great care and the diseased bone removed by means of a curette. It was surprising to find the large area in which actual pus could be found in the bony cells. The disease in many cases followed the line of the petro squamous suture. Special care was taken not to go too low in order to avoid the semi-circular canals and facial nerve. It is, of course, extremely hard to orientate oneself in these operations where the parts are so small that the important structures are all very close together. Of course the object aimed at was to do as little as possible.

I am glad to say that all the cases recovered and none of them had any damage done to the facial nerve or labyrinth. Three turned up with a recurrence of the abscess and were again operated as before, except that adenoid vegetations were removed as well—all making good recoveries.

A point worth considering is as to whether these cases would recover if one simply incised the abscess. I think that some would, but that the process would be much slower and not nearly so safe.

I believe the reason that the mastoid was involved was due to the poor general condition of the patients, they being of the same class that gives us suppurating cervical glands and phlyctenular disease of the eye.