

The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1901.

NO. 2.

Original Contributions.

FURUNCLE IN EXTERNAL EAR.—NASAL OBSTRUCTION AND PARESIS OF SOFT PALATE.

BY PERCY G. GOLDSMITH, M.D., C.M., BELLEVILLE.

Furuncle in External Ear simulating Acute Suppurative Mastoiditis.—Female, aged 32; referred to me for a mastoid operation. The history briefly is as follows: For the last seven or eight years patient has had an intermitting running ear, with occasional attacks of earache of slight severity. On one occasion six years previously, had a swelling and queer pain behind the ear, which subsided under hot fomentations. Three weeks before I saw her she had a slight earache, with cessation of discharge and rapidly increasing deafness. The pain in the ear became very severe and continuous, most marked at night, and not particularly affected by moving the jaws. Marked swelling came on gradually with redness and edema over the corresponding mastoid, but lately has somewhat subsided. Marked constitutional disturbances were associated with the pain—sleeplessness (she had had no sleep for last two weeks), chills, fever and vomiting.

On inspecting the head and comparing the two mastoids from behind, together with the history, certainly in my mind settled the diagnosis. However, on completing the examination, I had reason to doubt my previously formed opinion. The meatus was very markedly swollen, and at the posterior superior wall, at the junction of the bony and cartilaginous meati, was a distinct bulging extremely tender to the probe, as was all the canal. I could not inspect the drum-head owing to the swelling. The mastoid