

better than quote from one of the most distinguished otologists we of his day, Dr. Wilde, that 'so long as an otorrhoea is present we can never tell how, when or where it will end or when it will lead to.'

If we consider the anatomy of the tympanic cavity—the thin lamella of bone forming its roof and separating it from the temporal sphenoidal lobe, also its direct connection with the mastoid process, enclosing as it does, that large venous channel the sigmoid sinus as well as the proximity of the cerebellum, instead of temporizing with and wondering why chronic purulent otitis should be productive of evil results, I think we should be amazed that any case of suppuration of the middle ear, lasting a few years, would not destroy its fragile bony enclosures and invade the feebly resisting tissues of the cranial cavity.

It might be asked, at what stage of a purulent otitis, is the term chronic to be applied, roughly speaking, I would say all otorrhoeas of 3 mos. duration or longer, are chronic.

Treatment of this latter condition depends to a large extent on its duration, character and amount of secretion and the changes produced in the structures of the tympanum.

The first requisite, however, is to provide for the removal of the secretion, and the second is to render the ear as aseptic as is possible with the remedies at our disposal, and I think this is best accomplished by syringing ear with some antiseptic solution as potassium permanganate—or bichloride—one or more times a day according to the amount of discharge. Instillations, although somewhat abused have yet a value depending on condition of drum size of perforation—presence or absence of granulation, etc. If discharge is slight in amount and of mucoid consistency, a solution of zinc sulphate, grs. viii to oz., will be found useful or copper sulph or acetate of lead may be substituted.

When small granulations are visible they should be touched with silver nitrate, acid-chloric or trichloroacetic, but if large they should be thoroughly removed with snare or ring curettes and this supplemented by the instillation of an alcoholic solution.

Powders used by the physician himself, have their indications and advantages, but to give them to patients or friends to use at home, is not only useless but decidedly harmful.