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Original Communications.

DISEASE OF THE EAR AS A COMPLICATION IN EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA OR GRIPPE.

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 Jefferson Medical College Hospital, etc.*

During the epidemic of influenza or grippe in 1889-90, and 1891, we treated a large number of cases of ear disease both in the hospital and in private practice, and reported the same in the *Virginia Medical Journal*.

In most of the cases there was earache followed by acute otitis media, with a hemorrhagic inflammation of the membrana tympani, passing into perforations of the membrana tympani, the result of a micro-organism migrated from the nasopharynx. In some of the cases there were double perforations with more or less reflex irritation of the brain, and some involvement of the mastoid, followed by tissue abscess situated just beneath the cortical layer. There was pain, chill, and more or less fever, followed by perforation of the membrana tympani; at first a mucous

and, after a time, a discharge of pus. In almost all the cases there was a feeble circulation, irregular pulse and weak heart.

Instead of yielding promptly to the ordinary treatment by sterilized cleansing with a solution of bichloride of soda and glycerine, cocaine solution at night to relieve pain, it had to be followed by carbolic acid with boric acid and aqua pura and careful inflating of the middle ear. Most of the recent cases were protracted for three, four, and even six weeks, and some longer. Then the apophysis of the mastoid became painful, and still more so on pressure. The insufflation of air diminishes the pain for a length of time but leaves the apophysis sensitive to touch, then we resort to the following prescription: Baths for the ear, of alcohol at 90 per cent. containing 20 grammes of pulverised boric acid, or a super-saturated solution which Lowenberg introduced into use for the past twelve years with success in this class of cases.

In the adults there was a large loss of the membrana tympani of a pyriform shape. The nose, throat and Eustachian tubes were inflamed and irritated, requiring spraying with a solution of aqua hydrogentii deoxidæ