MASTOIDITIS DUE TO GONOCOCCUS.*

By DR. CHARLES TROW, Toronto,
Professor of Aural Surgery, Trinity Medical College; Aurist to Toronto General Hospital and Hospital for Sick Children.

Robert W., aged 22, a farmer's son, was admitted to Toronto General Hospital under my care on January 6th last, suffering from a somewhat diffuse swelling over and about the mastoid process with moderate degree of pain.

Personal History.—Patient is a poorly built man, anemic, and not at all vigorous. Although he has never been really well he has had no definite illness excepting a chronic diarrhea off and on for 10 years, which 5 years ago was diagnosed tubercular. He says he has never had scarlet fever, typhoid, rheumatism or chorea. Has slight attacks of la grippe each winter. He denies absolutely ever having had gonorrhea or other venereal trouble, also says that none of his friends have been so afflicted.

History of his present illness.—Patient got wet through one day last November and was severely chilled. Next day he had considerable pain in both shoulders and neck. A small lump appeared in submaxillary region near greater cornu of the hyoid bone and at same time he experienced a sore throat. This condition prevailed for a week or two, to be succeeded by a sharp pain in the right ear. The patient referred it to the "drum." Some six weeks later, that is about one month before admission, he noticed a slight swelling behind his right ear, and about the same time a creamy yellow discharge from right ear and right nostril. The former continued until operation, and the latter for about two weeks after. Accompanying the swelling behind the ear was a moderately severe pain which seemed to shoot up over the vertex. This persisted until the application of ice on admission to the hospital. Temperature before operation was generally about normal, occasionally it went to 100°. Pulse varied from normal to 108.

Examination of affected parts.—A diffuse swelling in the mastoid region was very apparent. It seemed to extend for some distance below the tip of the process into the neck. The skin over it was normal in color. Pressure showed pitting and but very little tenderness. Pain was never a marked symptom. Hearing watch 6 inches, whispering 1 foot, speaking 1 yard.

The discharge spoken of above was moderately abundant. There was no bulging of the posterior wall of the external meatus. The drum was very much congested and irregular, with a perforation about the size of a pin's head at the lower anterior

* Read at meeting of Toronto Clinical Society.