

## Rhinology, Laryngology and Otology

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**Aural Emergencies in Infants and Children.** By J. F. McKERNON, New York. *The Post-Graduate*, Feb., 1910.

In this paper the author details the more common ailments affecting the ears of children, and mentions some simple measures for their relief and cure. In examining the ear for earache, it is best to wipe out epithelial debris and wax rather than syringe it out, as the latter produces congestion of the membrana tympani, and so clouds the diagnosis. For the simple congestion due to a slight cold and consequent swelling of adenoid tissue or a beginning tonsillitis, he recommends a weak solution of cocaine and adrenalin in camphor water. Simple syringing with hot water will often relieve.

For marked bulging of the drum, any drops are contraindicated, the appropriate treatment being a free incision, preferably a long, curved marginal one. This should be followed by syringing with hot salines, boracic acid solution, or 1/4000—1/10000 bichloride of mercury. The use in the external auditory canal of drops composed of laudanum and sweet oil should be condemned, as it clogs the canal should drainage be necessary, as well as acting as a culture media for germs.

In the removal of foreign bodies care should be taken not to injure the canal in any way, but to use the syringe first before resorting to instruments.

In eczematous conditions, first the cause such as acrid discharges, etc., should be removed, then the surface painted with acetum cantharides, followed by a soothing ointment. In accidental punctures of the drum membrane, all that is required is cleansing with saline or . . . . . antiseptic.

Impacted cerumen should be removed by the syringe, first softening it with peroxide of hydrogen or saturated solution of bicarbonate of soda.

Unexplained high temperatures are often caused by ear disease, and so the necessity of frequent examinations during the course of