

the greatest import to secure free exit for the pent up secretions by an incision beginning at the posterior inferior quadrant of the membrane and proceeding directly upwards through shrapnell's membrane to the upper border of the canal. This as a rule relieves pain at once and now we should order the ear to be irrigated in the manner and with the solution I have spoken of earlier in the paper and under no circumstances should we dust a power in the external canal, as it interferes with our—desideratum—efficient drainage. Some authorities, especially one American aurist has been insisting a great deal of late, on the danger of increased infection by irrigating the canal at this stage, but if employed in the way I have indicated such a risk is practically reduced to nil and the removal of the secretions from the middle ear must not only be provided for but encouraged, otherwise by obstruction accumulation may take place behind the drum and extension occur in other directions leading to more dangerous areas.

If this treatment is faithfully carried out, the discharge which may be profuse for a few days will quite rapidly subside, the line of incision heal and our patient recover with normal audition, whereas if we temporize until the bacteria bound to be recognized at any cost, carry their campaign a little farther and after causing the drum membrane to rupture, appear in battle array in the external auditory canal, we have usually a small ragged perforation, imperfect drainage and the suppuration may involve the mastoid cells as shown by tenderness on pressure, etc., but it is not within the scope of this paper to discuss the treatment of this condition nor the complications which may supervene. But as I have said in a proceeding part of this paper, that more often the pain in the ear subsides, the mastoid, etc., escape involvement and the condition continues as a chronic otorrhoea and here I think is where the most indifference is shown, not only by patients as well as their friends, but unfortunately by some practitioners who seem to think that as the acute stage with its distressing pain has been relieved by this even worse condition, that they have done their duty and leave the rest to nature, but in this I think we sadly err and in this connection I can't do