

being assured it will meet with their approval. Of myself I can, without boasting, affirm that I am not now fearful of any form of complicated hare-lip no matter how extreme the case may be, and that I now with pleasure and satisfaction perform an operation which formerly caused me more disappointment than any other one.

Five cases of double hare-lip and double fissure of the palate on which I have successfully operated according to the above plan I will minutely detail in my report to the American Medical Association.—*Humboldt Medical Archives.*

FOREIGN BODIES IN THE EAR.

By HENRY L. SHAW, M.D., (Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.)

A FOREIGN body in the ear is always a source of anxiety to the friends of patients; and although its removal, if accomplished in season, is quite easy, it is often by delay rendered very difficult. Most of the foreign bodies met with in the ears of children are put in while at play, and are often forgotten. With adults their introduction is almost invariably due to the use of extemporaneous ear picks for the relief of the intolerable itching in chronic inflammation of the dermoid layer of the external auditory canal.

The ear is more tolerant of foreign bodies than is generally supposed. Cotton, which, from a belief in its virtues, is frequently introduced into the meatus, would often remain for an indefinite time, if the patient was not admonished by the increasing deafness to seek relief. Toynbee speaks of a dissection where cotton, which had probably been in the ear for years, produced absorption of the bony meatus. We can recall several cases where it remained for many years, unknown to the patients. Other foreign substances may be carried the same length of time. In a late number of the *Lancet* is the report of a case, where a piece of slate pencil was left in the ear for over forty years. In one of our own cases, a stone, the size of a pea, remained in the canal for years before trouble was produced, and it was then caused by attempts at removal. Still another case was that of a playmate, who carried a bean in his ear for twenty years, with no bad effect, except slight deafness.

In our own experience the following substances have been met with; beans, cotton, slate pencils, peas, maggots, cockroaches, beads, glass, crockery, shells, paper, pins, ivory, teeth of combs, stones and seeds.

The amount of trouble produced by foreign bodies in the ear depends upon their nature, position and size. Hard, smooth substances, and