

EMPHYEMA OF THE ACCESSORY SINUSES OF THE NOSE.

THIS report of a few cases of suppuration in the nasal accessory sinuses has been prompted by what has seemed to me to be a lack of interest in the subject on the part of the general practitioner. A short study of the skull will demonstrate the close relationship of these cavities to important organs of sense and even to the brain itself.

In an effort to stimulate your interest it has seemed best to relate the clinical symptoms and conditions of a few selected cases, the means of diagnosis, and the treatment, with the results.

For diagnosis the chief requisites are a good artificial light, a head-mirror, nasal speculum, rhinoscopic mirror and probe. Transillumination by means of a small electric lamp in the mouth or under the brow often serves to confirm the diagnosis. If the Antrum of Highmore is normal, the light in the mouth will produce a bright reflex in the face just under the eye and through the pupil of the eye. During this test the room must be arranged so that every ray of light can be excluded from it. The contrast between the bright illumination of the healthy side and the darkness of the diseased side is very striking.

At times a radiograph is useful in determining the extent of the disease, and the operation to be undertaken. In the matter of treatment, the passing of a curved canula for the purpose of irrigation into any of the sinuses through the natural orifice is not only difficult, but frequently impossible. On the other hand what, in Vienna, they call "punction" of the Antrum of Highmore through the antro-nasal wall, beneath the inferior turbinate, is comparatively easy, and with the use of cocaine, painless; thus making irrigation of this sinus simple and certain.

On January 7, 1907, Mrs. W. complained that three weeks previously she had had a cold in the chest and head. During and since the attack, her head had ached over the left eye. In other respects, she was well.

For some days a blur had come over the vision of the left eye. L.V.:—20/200. On examination, the optic disc was found to be swollen + 1.00 D. Dr. Diss reports urine O.K. No uterine, or other trouble. Transillumination shows the left frontal sinus slightly darker than the right. Hot douches and hot applications did not relieve the condition. So three days later I excised the the left mid-