

ON THE ROLE OF THE EUSTACHIAN TUBE IN THE PHYSIOLOGY OF AUDITION.

BY DR. EDOUARD FOURNIE.

The conclusions of a paper by Dr. Fournié are :

1. To the number of usages generally attributed to the Eustachian tube, and which are—The maintenance of an equal tension of air on both faces of the membrana tympani, and the evacuation of the matters secreted, we add a third. The tube, in our opinion, is destined to transform the closed cavity of the tympanum into an open cavity, for the purpose of preventing the interior and exterior vibrations from arriving through the solid parts into a closed cavity, and there giving rise to a resonance incompatible with the excellence of hearing.

2. Contrary to the opinion generally adopted nowadays, the Eustachian tube is always open, and the communication of the external air with that of the cavity of the tympanum is incessant.

3. The external bundle of the pharyngo-staphylin, the internal and external feri staphylins, are obturators of the Eustachian tube and not dilators of this conduit, as it is generally professed.

4. The obturation of the tube is always but momentary, and it is produced day and night during the movements of deglutition, during the pronounciation of certain letters, and during singing.

5. The circulation of the air of the tube and of the drum of the ear represents a kind of respiration, in which the obturator muscles perform the functions of expiratory forces, whilst the elasticity proper to the tubal cartilage represents the inspiratory forces.—*Gaz. des Hôp.*

TREATMENT OF VAGINITIS BY IODOFORM.

M. Martineau employs in vaginitis an emulsion made of equal parts of iodoform and oil of sweet almonds. Under the influence of the oil, the iodoform almost entirely loses its odour, to such an extent that it may be employed without the persons surrounding the patient being able to suspect the nature of the dressing.

M. Constantine Paul indicates another process to do away with the disagreeable odour of iodoform. It is sufficient simply to drop a few drops of the essence of bitter almonds upon the iodoform powder.—*Gaz. des Hôp.*

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere, current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial medical associations will oblige by sending reports of the proceedings of their Associations to the corresponding editor.*

TORONTO, JULY, 1880.

J. & W. HORLICK & CO.'S PREPARATIONS.—The Infants' Food of this firm has the best reputation among the leading medical men in the States (such as J. Lewis Smith and others) as a diet, when unfortunately the little sufferers have to be put on artificial diet in that troublesome and fatal disease, cholera infantum. We hope that a full report of the results obtained by its use here will be presented.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO—MEETING OF CONVOCATION.

On Monday, June 7th, a meeting of Convocation of the University of Toronto was held in University College, and we are gratified to be able to say was much better attended than has been heretofore the case, over seventy graduates being present. Owing to the regretted absence of the Chairman, Chief Justice Moss, through illness, the Chancellor, Hon. Ed. Blake, presided. John A. Boyd, M.A., Q.C., was elected in the place of Hon. Thomas Moss. In reply to Mr. J. C. Hamilton, in reference to the resolution passed last year, Dr. Oldright stated unofficially that it was the intention of the Senate to make public its proceedings as far as possible. A Committee, consisting of the Chairman and Dr. Oldright, Messrs. Hodgins, Cattanaach, Loudon, Gibson and the clerk, was appointed to report on a proposed code of rules, at the next meeting. Mr. N. Kingsmill moved as follows :—

“That a Committee be appointed to consider the desirability of procuring amendments to the Acts relating to the University of Toronto,