

rounded cells; these, however, differ very much from the cells of the gelatinous polypus, in being all of nearly the same size and shape, and in being larger than those previously described. The cells of this polypus do not appear to be separated by any substance, but they are agglomerated together, and form the entire mass of the polypus. The exterior, which is smoother than the gelatinous polypus, and which is always covered by its secretion, is composed of a layer of elongated epithelial cells, which are frequently terminated by ciliæ; the latter are often seen in active motion for a considerable period subsequent to the removal of the portion of polypus which they cover.

#### TREATMENT OF THE GELATINOUS POLYPUS.

The difference in the structure of the two kinds of aural polypi naturally prepares the surgeon to expect that the treatment requisite for their removal would also differ. This is undoubtedly the case. The use of the potassa cum calce, which has proved of so great value in the destruction of the vascular polypus, is of but little service in the treatment of the gelatinous, or, more properly speaking, the fibro-gelatinous polypus. The escharotic produces but comparatively slight effect upon fibrous tissue, and the only plan of removing it is by extraction. For this purpose, the best instrument is a pair of ordinary dressing-forceps, the ends of which should be reduced in size, so as not to be larger than from a line to a line and a half in diameter. These forceps should be introduced into the meatus to the distance of half or three quarters of an inch, and the polypus seized as near as possible to its roots; the forceps should then be used as a lever, the outer part of the ear being the fulcrum, and the polypus turned out of the cavity. But little force is required, and, as a general rule, the diseased growth is removed without difficulty in an entire state. Upon examining the meatus after its removal, the surface to which it was attached is distinctly discernible, and, for a short time, there is a slight oozing of blood from it. In some cases portions of the root of the polypus remain, but they do not, generally, require any further treatment, but gradually atrophy and disappear. On the contrary, if any of the small globular bodies remain attached to the root, they rapidly increase, and the diseased growth has again to be submitted to operation. The removal of the fibro-gelatinous polypus is generally productive of relief, not only to the unpleasant head symptoms, which are caused by its pressure on the contents of the vestibule, but to the diminished power of hearing. The improvement in the power of hearing does not, however, as would be supposed, take place at once; on the contrary, it not uncommonly occurs that there is, at first, no increased power of hearing, but that it gradually and very