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## Original Articles

### SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PURULENT OTITIS MEDIA.\*

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Not so long since the modern perfected procedure of tympano-mastoid exenteration was thought to have solved all our difficulties in the attainment of a cure for a persistent purulent aural discharge. Many otologists were so enthusiastic as to hold the operation indicated in all cases in which an aural discharge had persisted in spite of careful conservative treatment for so short a time as nine months. For a time enthusiasm clouded the duty of the otologist towards the function of hearing, and so general became the practice of this operation that, in America at least, the pathological causes of an aural discharge seemed to have become obscured.

The operation seemed so logical, so radical, so perfect in detail, that as time went by the many failures to secure an absolute cure seemed almost incompatible. Investigation was thus stimulated, with the result that the extremes of radicalism now no longer obtain. These extremes were never reached in Europe as they were in America, and in this regard I was much impressed by a paper of Ruppert, an assistant in Prof. Bezold's clinic at Munich, which appeared in June of last year. In this clinic the extreme of conservative treatment of middle ear suppuration obtains, and Ruppert, in collecting his statistics, went outside the records of the clinic, taking instead the case records of Dr. Schiebe, of Munich, a former pupil of Bezold. These records extended over

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