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Original Articles

MASTOIDITIS IN INFANTS.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:—

I feel sure that I shall be called to task for making use of the above title in face of the fact that many authorities state that the infant has no mastoid process.

I plead in support of my choice, first, expediency, since the term conveys a certain topographical idea, that is that the disease is in the temporal bone behind the ear; and, secondly, I maintain that there are mastoid cells in infants of six months, and even less, although there may be no mastoid or nipple-shaped form to the bone externally.

Holden (and his statement is given almost verbatim in Quain) says: "The mastoid process begins to be developed about the second year, but its aircells do not appear until puberty."

Morris—page 48—says: "The mastoid process becomes distinct about the first year, coincident with the obliteration of the petrosquamous suture. It increases in thickness by deposit from the periosteum. Towards puberty, rarely earlier, the process becomes pneumatic. At birth the antrum is relatively large and is bounded externally by a plate of bone belonging to the squamosa. As the mastoid increases in thickness the antrum comes to lie at a greater depth and becomes relatively smaller."

Cunningham—page 118—says: "At birth the outer surface of the petrous part not only forms the inner wall of the tympanum,

*Read at Canadian Medical Association, Toronto, June, 1910.