

THE Milder or Inhalent Method in Treatment of Diseases of the Upper-Air Passages. — Clinical remarks in the Throat Clinic, Medical College of Ohio. In no field of medical practice, with possible exception of the gynæcological, has there of late years been such an apparently wild race for novel and striking methods of treatment, as in the department of diseases of the upper-air passages. Instruments without number have been devised to cut, drill, bore, saw and burn the parts supposed to be affected. Within the past few years the galvano-cautery has, to some extent, displaced many of the older surgical instruments. So general is the tendency to operate that the sufferer from nose or throat trouble is fortunate, indeed, to emerge from

his physician's office without a fresh wound or burn, which will require a week's careful emollient applications. It is far from my purpose to decry necessary surgical treatment of neoplasms, diseased or deflected nasal bones, hypertrophied tonsils, or superlatively thickened tissue; but I especially desire to direct your attention to the fact that, in a large percentage of simple acute or chronic catarrhal affections of the mucous membrane, the most common treatment of to-day entirely destroys the function of that membrane. The normal function of the mucous membrane lining the upper respiratory tract is to warm, moisten and cleanse the inspired air. Extensive cauterization deprives it of all these powers, by destroying the epithelial layer and the underlying muci-

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