

The prime necessity is some form of treatment which the friends can carry out and with which there is no liability of doing harm. After a somewhat varied experience with almost every form of ear syringe, douche, etc., I have discarded all in favor of the ordinary rubber bag, known as the fountain syringe, fitted with a nozzle, which can be sterilized and of such a shape that it cannot be introduced too far and will not obstruct the return flow. Its advantages are—quantity, holding a quart or more—ease of application—continuance of flow—heat—at this stage irrigation of the ear with a solution of Bichloride, 1—5000, at temperature of 105° or 110° centigrade, reduces swelling—relieves stasis and eases pain.

The ordinary rubber bulbs—glasspiston syringes, etc., usually placed in the hand of patients, their friends, etc., are absolutely ineffectual in relieving an acute attack and when we consider the small amount they are capable of holding and the manner in which they are used, one might say that they are of little more value than a “squirt”. I think it also devolves upon us to instruct the parents or friends at home, as to the manner of syringing the ear, keeping in mind the direction of the external canal and the necessity of making traction in a direction upwards and backwards in adults and downwards in infants and children. These details to the uninitiated are very essential. The hot water bag will also be found a useful adjuvant to the other treatment in this stage and the local depletion of blood by a couple of leeches or if these are not at hand, by the artificial leech is also to be commended.

If these efforts to control pain and deplete the circulation have not been successful in bringing about resolution in 24 hours, we should again inspect the drum, when we will find it dark red in color and bulging and in all probability the short process of the malleus invisible and now we must resort to free incision of the membrane, this having been decided on, it is advisable to syringe ext. and canal with bichloride and then mop it out with absolute alcohol. I think we will find it to our advantage to administer a general anaesthetic, preferably nitrous oxide gas if at hand, otherwise chlorform or ether, since it is of