the standpoint of ætiology, and Drs. Rice and Casselberry dwelt upon the aspects of system, ætiology, diagnosis, and treatment. The whole subject was discussed in an able manner, while the result which has been accomplished in defining our knowledge was fully dealt with. The difficulties in arriving at a solution of many important points were by no means forgotten.

The difficult question of papilloma of the larynx in children has again been raised by Dr. Payson Clark at a meeting of the American Laryngological Association. Many cases have been reported during the year, bearing upon the difficulties and dangers met with in such conditions, and the writer referred to has carefully reviewed the chances of removal through the mouth, as well as the need for intubation or tracheotomy. The possibility of obviating such difficulties by means of direct illumination or operation was also carefully considered, and it is to be hoped that familiarity with this method will do much to bring about more successful results in the future.

RETROSPECT OF RHINOLOGY.

JUDGING from the enormous amount of rhinological literature which has been published during the past year, there is evidently no abatement of interest in the study of diseases of the nose.

During the past twenty to twenty-five years rhinology has made enormous strides, with corresponding benefit to those who are unfortunate enough to suffer from lesions of the upper respiratory passages.

At the Sheffield Meeting of the British Medical Association, Dr. Barry Ball, in introducing the discussion upon "Chronic Inflammation of the Pharynx and Naso-pharynx," pointed out, however, that too much should not be expected as the result of operative interference, particularly in cases of post-nasal adenoid operations, as it was by no means uncommon for nasal breathing not to be perfectly re-established, and for affections of the middle ear not to entirely clear up. Such a warning comes none too soon, as the general public, and, for that part, some medical men too, are apt to look for a complete recovery of nasal and aural symptoms as the result of operative removal of post-nasal adenoids.

In the same address Dr. Ball made some trite remarks upon the value of breathing exercises. While not by any means deprecating their value, he insisted upon their employment in suitable cases

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and at the proper time—a hint which might well be taken to heart by certain teachers of deportment.

The efficiency of the submucous operation for septal deflections has time after time been attested by the records of many successful cases, and the past year has been no exception to the rule.

The comparative rarity of septal hæmatoma and abscess of the septum has been emphasised by J. E. Newcombe in a paper published in the *Medical Record* of March 14, 1908. Of seventeen cases occurring in his practice, three were hæmatoma and fourteen abscesses. In eleven of the cases some form of trauma proved to have been the exciting factor, while in the other six no definite cause could be assigned. The successful treatment of severe cases of hay fever and paroxysmal coryza unfortunately still baffles the profession. E. Yonge (*Lancet*, June 13, 1908) suggests, and has practised with success, resection of the nasal nerve in a limited number of cases.

As might have been expected, the surgery of the accessory sinuses has come in for a large share of attention. The treatment of maxillary antral suppuration has undoubtedly become more successful since it has been recognised that a large percentage of cases are of nasal origin, and that efficient drainage into the corresponding nasal passage is essential. K. W. Goadby (JOURN. OF LARYNGOL., RHINOL., AND OTOL., November, 1908), in a communication upon antral (maxillary) suppuration, states that infection may occur through the alveolus without the intervention of carious or abscessed teeth. Should this statement prove to be correct, the difficulty of deciding which route, the alveolar, the inferior meatal, or the canine fossa route, to adopt in opening up and treating the existing empyema will be greater than ever. The same writer advises also the gradual immunisation of the patient by means of suitable vaccines, the original infecting organism or organisms having previously been determined by bacteriological and opsonic investigations.

In the diagnosis of suppurative affections of the frontal and ethmoidal sinuses, more and more attention is being paid to the value of skiagraphy as a means of determining not only the sinuses involved, but also the regional anatomy of the particular sinus or sinuses. While very extensive operations are at times called for in cases of pan-sinusitis (Killian, Watson Williams), the tendency to treat cases of focal and less severe infections intranasally is increasing.

The zeal and activity of the present-day rhinologist augurs well

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for the still further elucidation of morbid conditions of the nasal passages and their accessory sinuses, and for their successful treatment, provided always that enthusiasm is not allowed to run away with discretion.

W. M.

RETROSPECT OF OTOLOGY, 1908.[1]

By Dr. Dan McKenzie.

Among the more interesting incidents of the year may be mentioned the meeting of the British Medical Association at Sheffield. A discussion on intra-cranial complications, etc., was introduced by Messrs. Ballance and Whitehead (545). The Presidential Address by Dr. Peter McBride (98) on the opening of the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine contained some very valuable suggestions, and the work of the Section has kept up to the high standard maintained by the Otological Society, of which it is the successor.

Auricle.—A case of hyperplasia, possibly of eczematous origin, was shown at the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine by Dr. Furniss Potter (332), and Dr. Pasquier, at a meeting of the Parisian Society of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology, reported a case of what seemed to be botryomycosis of the auricle (567). The function of the appendage as a conductor of sound-waves has been discussed by Dr. Geigel (128).

External Auditory Meatus.—An uncommon case was described by Mr. Fagge, at a meeting of the Otological Section, in his report of a branchial sinus excised by him, which led from the neck into the external auditory meatus (198). Deep ulceration of the external meatus due to secondary syphilis, combined with purulent otitis media, was reported by Dr. A. Bronner at the same meeting (197), and Dr. W. H. Kelson showed a case of stenosis of the right meatus, the causation of which was somewhat doubtful (111). Dr. Cobb has drawn attention to the well-known danger to the ear as a result of swimming (707). Dr. Gaudier, investigating the effects of the Bier treatment upon diseases of the ear, has come to the generally accepted conclusion that while benefit accrues from the use of the treatment in furunculosis, in otitis media and mastoiditis, on the other hand, it is valueless (526).

Middle Ear, Membrane and Ossicles.—Mr. Macleod Yearsley has related a case in which a small grass seed became embedded in

[1] The numbers in brackets indicate the pages in the volume for 1908.

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