New Aural Speculum.

Dr. J. E. H. NICHOLS exhibited this instrument, which left both hands free. *Lake.*

VEREIN FREIBURGER AERZTE.

Meeting of 29th January, 1897.

(From the "Münch. Med. Woch.," 25th May, 1897.)

Herr KLEIN read a paper on *Tracheotomy and Intubation in Diphtheritic Stenosis of the Air Passages.*

Commencing with a short history of the origin and development of intubation, he next demonstrated O'Dwyer's instrumentarium and method of using same. From his own observations during six months in the Kaiser and Kaiserin Friedrich Kinderkrankenhaus, as well as from the results obtained through the whole hospital, it was evident that since the introduction of serumtherapy the number of intubations had materially increased, and the results had been very satisfactory. Next he dealt minutely with the indications for tracheotomy and intubation, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the latter. Intubation, he maintained, ought to be employed in private practice.

DISCUSSION.

Herr VON SCHAMISSO had tried intubation in the surgical clinic, but had given it up on account of the great technical difficulties and the unsatisfactory results obtained. He drew special attention to the delicacy of a child's larynx, the swollen condition of the pharynx, etc., in diphtheria, the danger of the tube getting blocked, the great strain put on the attendants, the necessity of always having at hand a doctor capable of intubating in case the tube either fell out or was pulled out by the child, the terror of the child each time intubation had to be repeated, and the difficulty of feeding. In his three cases ulcers formed, which ultimately necessitated tracheotomy.

Herr KILLIAN spoke strongly against intubation being employed in private practice.

Herr E. BLOCK. *Operative Treatment of Otitis Media Suppurativa.*

Operation must be resorted to (1) when conservative methods have failed to produce healing; (2) when the suppuration has become the source of dangerous complications. The latter condition generally arises in connection with acute cases. Chronic cases lasting for years always depend on disease of the bone, caries, formation of sequestra, or cholesteatoma, or combinations of these. Cholesteatoma, the most deadly of all ear diseases, should always be an indication for radical operative treatment, except where there is a wide opening through the posterior wall of the meatus.

The principal complications of middle-ear suppurations are phlebitis of sinus, etc., with pyæmia, fatal hæmorrhages from the carotid, pachy-

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and lepto-meningitis and cerebral abscess, temporary or permanent facial paralysis, etc., etc.

The operation most frequently required is the opening of the mastoid. In acute cases, each must be treated on its own merits. For chronic cases typical methods of operating have been devised. The speaker had for the last three years regularly closed the wound behind the auricle, all except the lower angle, at once. This primary closure of the wound he had adopted even in dealing with large cholesteatomata, and had obtained perfectly satisfactory results. The object of the operation is to unite into one large cavity the meatus, tympanum, attic, antrum, mastoid cells, and external mastoid wound. The cavity thus formed gets covered over with epidermis instead of mucous membrane, and can retain neither pus nor cholesteatoma. Of fifty-one chronic cases operated on by the speaker during the last sixteen months, thirty were cases of caries or sequestrum formation, twenty-one of cholesteatoma. *Arthur J. Hutchison* (*Trans.*).

ANNOTATION.

SHORT NOTES OF CASES.

WE would direct the attention of our subscribers and contributors to the value possessed by short notes of cases, as exemplified in this month's issue. It is often very difficult to bring notes of cases forward at societies' meetings—either one is busy, or prevented, maybe, by some other reason, such as the difficulty of presenting the patient. And it is a great pity that valuable material should be lost in private archives, and not put on record, even though they be presented in a bald and somewhat unvarnished state. Especially useful are series of cases reduced almost to a tabular form, as they are available for easy reference. These short notes have also the advantage to the writer that he is enabled to dispose of the laborious task of looking up references, one which must be one of the causes of the want of reports on interesting cases.

ABSTRACTS.

DIPHTHERIA, &c.

Blumenthal, F.—*On the Possibility of Forming Diphtheria Toxins from Albumens and from Nutrient Media containing Sugar.* "Deutsche Med. Woch.," June 10, 1897.

AFTER referring to previous observations and experiments on the formation of toxins in albumens and the inhibitory action of carbo-hydrates on this process, the author proceeds to describe some of his later researches on diphtheria-toxin formation.

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