suggestions, and well worth the study of those who (like many of us), while not professing to be masters of the art of using the X-ray apparatus, feel the necessity of being able to judge of the results, more particularly in connection with our various specialities.

Dundas Grant.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CURETTAGE OF THE FRONTAL SINUS.

To the Editor of The Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology.

Dear Sir,—I have read with great interest Dr. Dan McKenzie's article on "Osteomyelitis of the Skull." I have now operated on a very great number of frontal sinuses, but have never seen the complication. This argues either extraordinary good luck on my part, or that the method of operating in Dublin is different from that employed in other places.

In the interest of present and future sufferers from that complaint, and, indeed, hardly less of the operators, I am encouraged, by a sentence which occurs in Dr. McKenzie's paper in this month's issue of your Journal, to hope that this latter may be the case. He says on page 24, in speaking of possible causes, "over-zealous curetting of the walls of the sinus is likewise viewed with a suspicious eye in several quarters." I have always carefully avoided curetting the frontal sinus, a practice to which I was led by a sentence which I first read twenty years ago in McEwen's "Pyogenic Diseases of the Brain and Spinal Cord." I cannot give the exact reference as I have not the book by me, having lent my copy to someone too wise in his generation to return it, and the book is now, unfortunately, out of print. McEwen draws attention to the danger of infections, not merely of the skull, but of the brain, following scalp wounds, where the pericranium has been penetrated and the bone scratched. He shows that infection may lie dormant a long time, and recommends that in the treatment of such cases in the first instance, the greatest pains should be taken to obliterate all traces of the original scratch, however slight. Any instrument used to curette an infected frontal sinus is itself necessarily infected, and the curette cannot be used, even lightly, without risk. I therefore have always dealt with the mucous membrane by wiping it away with a piece of gauze moved by a steel probe. It is only necessary to wipe the mucous membrane in the gentlest manner and it comes away for the asking. You then substitute for the epithelial membrane a granulating surface, and this is the whole essence of the cure.

Yours faithfully,

R. H. Woods.

39, Merrion Square, E.,
Dublin.
January 4, 1913.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Allgemeine Akustik und Mechanik des menschlichen Stimmorgans. Von *Dr. Albert Muschold.* Mit 19 Photographien des menschlichen Kehlkopfes auf 6 Tafeln und 53 Abbildungen im Text. Berlin: Julius Sprenger, 1913.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S175514630018953X Published online by Cambridge University Press