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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