

E.A.R.

Gray, Albert A.—*The Pathological Conditions found in the Case of an Individual who had suffered from Deafness during Life.* "Brit. Med. Journ.," November 4, 1905.

The individual from whom the temporal bones were removed *post mortem* had suffered from almost absolute deafness and very severe tinnitus for a period of seventeen years before her death, at the age of seventy-one.

The patient died from malignant disease of the uterus, and in addition to the conditions relative to the cancerous affection the following were noted in regard to the anatomical changes found in the temporal bone and the adjacent structures :

The bones of the skull were remarkably soft, and the saw went through the calvarium almost as if the bones were of the consistency of hard cheese. The greater part of the temporal bone was almost soft in character, and the dense, ivory-like capsule of labyrinth was much reduced in thickness. The mucous membrane of the tympanum and Eustachian tube was normal throughout. The malleo-incudal joint was ankylosed on the right side but not on the left. On both sides the stapes was completely ankylosed in the oval window, the ankylosis being bony throughout.

In the left membranous labyrinth the changes in the bony capsule were found to have produced distortions in the two limbs of the posterior canal by encroaching on its lumen. The cochlear branch of the auditory nerve was atrophied at least in the two upper turns of the cochlea. The ligamentum spirale appeared to be of a less dense nature than normal, though this may have been due to old age and not to the disease.

In the right membranous labyrinth there was found to be no actual distortion. The ligamentum spirale was atrophied, as was also the cochlear branch of the nerve. There were two masses of calcareous deposits, one in the common limb of the posterior and superior canals and the other in the posterior limb of the horizontal canal.

THERAPEUTIC PREPARATION.

FORMAWN (The Chemical Works, 26, Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E.).

"FORMAWN," an abbreviated term for chlormethylmenthylether ($C_{10}H_{19}OCH_2Cl$), has been found to have a remarkably favourable action in catarrhal affections of the naso-pharyngeal cavity. It is administered by means of a specially constructed inhaler, consisting of a glass generator or warming vessel, fitted with a glass stopper having two olive-shaped extremities to be inserted in the nostrils in such a way that the nasal septum may be conveniently situated between the two extremities. The inhaler should be half filled with hot water and one tablet of Formawn added. The gas thus generated should be inhaled through the nostrils. The therapeutic efficacy rests upon the easy decomposition which ensues the more rapidly in proportion to the heat of the water, Formawn splitting up into its components—menthol, formaldehyde, and hydrochloric acid—the two former of which disperse *in statu nascendi*, leaving the latter dissolved in the water.