

EAR.

Zebrowski, A. (Warsaw).—*On the Curability and Operative Treatment of Pyæmia of Aural Origin.* "Monats. fur. Ohrenheilkunde," January, 1907.

The writer gives a full account of six cases of pyæmia originating in suppurative otitis media, and reviews the literature on the subject. Four of the cases described made a good recovery after the sinus had been freely exposed and the focus of the disease removed. Of the fatal cases one died of heart failure on the second day after operation and the other in the second week, with symptoms of thrombosis of the cavernous sinus. The author comes to the following conclusions:

(1) There is no typical course of the disease; it may be of any grade of severity. The methods of operating must be modified according to the severity of the disease and the pathological anatomy of the changes found after opening the temporal bone and exposing the sinus.

(2) The complete removal of the focus of disease in the bone and the exposure of the sinus transversus is frequently sufficient to cut short the pyæmic process.

(3) Anti-streptococcus serum may be used with favourable results in the post-operative treatment.

(4) Absence of pain in the mastoid process is no contra-indication for operative interference in cases of middle-ear suppuration.

(5) The onset of symptoms of thrombosis of the cavernous sinus must be taken as a sign of imminent death. No attempt at opening the cavernous sinus is admissible.

Knowles Renshaw.

Koellreutter, von W.—*The Rôle of the Auditory Conductive Apparatus in the Deafness of the New-born Child.* "Zeitsch. f. Ohrenh.," vol. liii, Part II, 1907.

The writer records his investigations on the hearing-power of the new-born child. His findings were with:

(1) The cri-cri (a small plate of metal with a buckled centre, which, on the plate being bent, springs to the opposite side, thus giving rise to the noise used in the tests) gave, even a few hours after birth, a marked reaction, quick movements of the eyelids and eyebrows.

(2) Galton's whistle, c^6 , a marked reaction (α) in all children in the first twenty-four hours of life; (β) in 74 per cent. of the children aged two to fourteen days.

(3) The tuning-forks, C, c^2 , c^3 , provoked no reaction in any case.

It is thus shown that during the first days of life high tones are perceived, but middle and low are not. A remarkable fact is that although all the children in the first twenty-four hours reacted to the high tones, yet on being tested again a few days later some failed to do so.

The writer points out that, in the light of the above results, there can be no longer any doubt as to the auditory perceptive apparatus being functional at birth, the inability to react to the lower tones indicating some block in the conducting apparatus—*i. e.* foetal waters, myxomatous tissue of Virchow, which are found in the middle ear.

Lindley Sewell.

Freytag, R.—*A Case of Labyrinthine Diplacusis due to Syphilis.* "Zeitsch. f. Ohrenh.," vol. liii, Part II, 1907.

The writer briefly reviews the literature on diplacusis, pointing out that the condition was at first regarded as being secondary to pathological changes in the middle ear. Later observers considered that changes in the labyrinth were responsible, although the author states he has only been able to find four recorded cases of diplacusis in which middle-ear disease could be excluded, his own case being the fifth.

Male, aged twenty-one, six months after contracting syphilis, was seized with attacks of giddiness, which in three days' time so increased in frequency and severity as to confine him to bed. Accompanying this giddiness were severe pains in the head, general weakness, and high-pitched ringing in the left ear. The patient was now admitted to hospital, and examination showed—nystagmus on looking to the left, marked Romberg's sign, staggering gait, and tendency to fall to the right; tympanic membranes, Eustachian tubes, and nasal passages normal. Hearing tests: Whispering, upper and lower tone limits, normal; Weber not lateralised, c tuning-fork heard somewhat longer through bone than air both sides. The series of forks was heard longer on the left side than right, and the patient, who was very musical, stated that from a^1 to a^3 the fork heard on the left seemed one fourth tone higher than on the right. Anti-syphilitic treatment was instituted, with the result that the giddiness, head-pains, and tinnitus gradually subsided, and the patient left hospital in five weeks, the tone difference with forks h_1 - a^3 having quite gone, there still remaining, however, a small difference with d^1 - a^1 . Seen two years later the patient was quite free from giddiness, except on sudden turning, the tinnitus was slight, and the diplacusis had disappeared. During this time the patient had had two courses of mercurial injections.

The writer states that there can be no doubt as to the ætiological factor being syphilitic in this case, as one can exclude the possible toxic action of the anti-syphilitic treatment which the patient had undergone before coming under observation, from its being so long—three months before the onset of aural symptoms.

Lindley Sewell.

REVIEWS.

The Labyrinth of Animals, including Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, and Amphibians. By ALBERT A. GRAY, M.D.Glas., F.R.S.E. Vol. I. London: J. and A. Churchill, 7, Great Marlborough Street, 1907.

In reporting the "Proceedings" of the Otological Society of the United Kingdom it has been our good fortune from time to time to give our readers glimpses of a very important research into the labyrinth of animals upon which Dr. Albert A. Gray has been engaged. The work of investigation was commenced seven years ago. A considerable portion of that time had to be devoted to the discovery of a satisfactory method of making the anatomical preparations, and to the gradual improvement of the method, of which the author gives a full account. The research is now sufficiently advanced to permit of the publication of the first volume, which includes the primates, the cheiroptera, the carnivora, the unguolata, the edentata, and the majority of the rodentia. The second