

Putelli, F.—*On the Examination of the Hearing of Railway Employees.* "Arch. Ital. d'Otolog.," vol. xviii, No. 6, 1907.

Dr. Putelli gives a *resumé* of the recent publications with regard to this point, and has come to the opinion that at present, of those tests which do not require mathematical exactness, the whispering voice produced by the residual air gives us the most universally convenient method of acoumetry. V. Grazzi.

NECK, THYROID, ŒSOPHAGUS.

Melandri, F. G., and Legg, T. P.—*Case of Acute Suppuration in a Thyroid Adenoma due to the Bacillus Typhosus.* "Lancet," January 25, 1908.

The case is described by the title. Acute abscess of the thyroid is not a very common occurrence, and when it does occur, apart from traumatism, such as puncturing a cyst, it is more often observed in connection with an acute febrile tissue and generally at a late stage of the illness.

StClair Thomson.

Manson, J. S.—*Open Safety-pin in the Œsophagus of a Child aged five months.* "Lancet," January 4, 1908.

A male child, aged five months, was admitted to the Oldham Infirmary on October 26, 1907, with a history of having swallowed a safety-pin one hour previous to admission. A skiagram was taken and the pin was seen to lie about the middle of the Œsophagus, open with the point upwards. It seemed a hopeless task to try to get the pin up by means of a probang, so it was resolved to push the pin down into the stomach and hope for the best. An ordinary stomach-tube of small-size was pushed down the Œsophagus, and after withdrawing another skiagram was taken showing the pin lying in the stomach. The child was kept in bed and watched carefully. Milk diet was given, and four days after admission a dose of castor-oil. On the afternoon of November 2 the pin was found sticking halfway out at the anus. The pin took six and a quarter days to accomplish the journey from the mouth to the anus, and only once or twice did the child seem at all fretful. The case seems worthy of note in showing the power of the alimentary canal in dealing with a foreign body of a somewhat formidable nature.

StClair Thomson.

Paterson, D. R. (Cardiff).—*Note on the Removal of an Open Safety-pin in the Œsophagus of a Child aged Five Months.* "Lancet," February 1, 1908.

Criticising the above communication Dr. Paterson points out the great dangers of the method employed, although it ended fortunately. He pleads for the adoption of Killian's Œsophagoscopic tube in any similar cases.

StClair Thomson.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Slater, A. B.—*A Case of Diphtheria of the Skin, of Three Years' Duration, treated by Antitoxine.* "Lancet," January 4, 1908.

There seems to be no doubt that the most important factor in this case was the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus. The disease apparently commenced

as an acute attack of diphtheria, the primary seat of infection being the eyes. From this focus the vulva became infected, and then the bacteria in some way found their way into the superficial lymphatic circulation, producing a condition resembling herpes, probably as the result of peripheral neuritis set up by the bacilli themselves. This theory is based on the fact that during the whole of the duration of the disease, since the primary acute symptoms, the lesions have been confined to the superficial layers of the skin (proved by the fact that no scarring was left). Whether the staphylococci played any important part is difficult to say, but they probably had only a mild influence, if any at all, as the use of various lotions, such as 1 in 40 carbolic lotion, and perchloride of mercury 1 in 1500 had no effect on the lesions, whereas the effect of the antitoxine was remarkable.

StClair Thomson.

Schönemann A. (Berne).—*Reports from his Private Clinic with Clinical Cases.* "Monats. für Ohrenheilk.," Year XLI, No. 7.

Among other cases is one of purulent cerebro-spinal meningitis following removal of adenoids. It was probably epidemic, though, in the unfortunate absence of an autopsy, there is some question as to there having occurred a violent waking-up of a chronic frontal sinusitis leading to cerebral abscess. Another is one of labyrinthine suppuration following chronic purulent otitis, cured by operative opening of the labyrinth. Another case is one showing the beneficial action of iodoform in tuberculosis of the middle ear.

Dundas Grant.

Frigyesi, J.—*Question of Artificial Interruption of Pregnancy in Tuberculosis.* ("Orvosi Hetilap," April, 1907.) "Aerzt. Rundschau," No. 52, 1907.

An interruption often takes place spontaneously as the result of the bodily depression, insufficiency of heart action, pyrexia, or the saturation of the blood with carbonic acid. Under the action of pregnancy old tuberculous processes become acute, and those that are present more severe. In the last stages of pulmonary tuberculosis, which are quite hopeless, the interruption of pregnancy cannot bring the process to a standstill. In cases in which there is a possibility of recovery or of lasting improvement, the question of interruption only comes under consideration when signs of advanced disease in the lung and of diminution of the bodily strength are observed, and when the therapeutic and hygienic measures are without result. The danger attending artificial interruption is less in the first six or eight weeks; in the later months (three to five) it is not without danger, but the organism is in a better condition than it would be towards the end of pregnancy, and the puerperal stage is also milder than with normal labour.

Dundas Grant.

Grasmann (Munich).—*Experiments on Disinfection of the Hands, with a Special Reference to the Iodine-benzine Method recommended by Heusner.* "Aerzt. Rundschau," December 14, 1907; "Münc. Med. Woch.," No. 43, 1907.

This method is stated to cause no irritation of the skin and is quickly carried out, but on account of the inflammability of the iodine-benzine, the author recommends the substitution of benzinoforn (CCl_4), which is neither inflammable nor explosive. The hands are washed for five minutes in a quarter of a litre of a 0.1 per cent. solution of iodine-benzinoforn.

Dundas Grant.