

teaspoon in which the fluid is heated over a spirit lamp, and from which it can be poured into the ear. Still better (especially when using alcohol) is to place the bottle, from which the stopper has been removed, in hot water. Should dilution be necessary, the water can be added hot. When the drops have been retained a sufficient time, a pad of cotton-wool should be placed over the ear to soak up any excess of fluid and the patient allowed to rise.

If drops have to be applied after syringing, the meatus should first always be carefully dried by means of a wool-armed probe. At times it is difficult to make the instillation enter the canal, and to overcome this it can be introduced by means of a small pipette and the tragus (the small projection overhanging the opening in front) pressed inwards once or twice with the tip of the forefinger.

*Blisters* often have to be applied behind the ear, over the mastoid process. The skin should first be thoroughly cleansed with ether or ammonia to remove all greasy material, and then an area about the size of a shilling painted with the *Liquor Epispasticus* of the British Pharmacopoeia. One or two layers are usually sufficient, and when the blister rises, it should be treated in the ordinary way.

*Leeches* are a very valuable means of treatment in some acute diseases of the ear. The spots to which they are usually applied are in front of the tragus, over the mastoid process and beneath the ear. It is astonishing how often one finds ignorance displayed regarding the method of applying a leech, and the following remarks are not, therefore, out of place. The skin of the part selected should be washed, and dabbed over with milk. The leech is then taken from his bottle and allowed to swim for a few minutes in a bowl of clean water, and before applying, it is next allowed to crawl over a clean towel. It should then be taken up in a test tube or a wineglass, and that receptacle inverted over the spot selected. Once it has bitten, it should be allowed to remain until it drops off distended.

*Heat* is applied to the ear in various ways. Poultices are not advisable, as they may cause perichondritis of the auricle; when ordered, however, they must be made small enough to just fit the meatus, and the whole ear covered with a large, thick pad of cotton wool. Dry heat is best employed by means of hot wool, hot flannel, or a "bran-bag." Leiter's tubes or instillations of sterilised water as hot as can be borne, are also useful.

*Cold* may be used by means of the ice-bag, but Leiter's tubes are much more convenient and

effective. Evaporating lotions are not adapted for application to the ear.

*Packing the Meatus.*—At times the nurse is called upon to pack the ear with antiseptic gauze. This is done by cutting double cyanide gauze into strips from six to twelve inches long and half to one inch broad. These are soaked in 1 in 40 carbolic lotion, and one end having been seized with a pair of fine ear forceps, are gently passed into the meatus to the bottom, the auricle being pulled upwards and backwards at the same time. The strip is thus packed into the meatus, not too tightly, and the outer end curled up and lodged in the hollow of the auricle. A pad of gauze, covered by wool and secured by a bandage, completes the dressing. The chief points to note in thus packing the meatus are:—

(1) It should be done with gentleness,

(2) The end of the gauze should reach the bottom of the canal, and

(3) It should not be packed in too tightly.

*Purifying the Ear for Operation.*—The local purification of the ear for operations thereon is a matter of no little importance, and upon its efficient execution depends, to a considerable extent, a good result. The ear will stand very strong antiseptics, a fact now more generally recognized and made use of. There are several methods in vogue, and different surgeons use different antiseptics; the one to be here described is that employed at the Royal Ear Hospital. The canal is carefully syringed with a warm antiseptic solution to clear it of all discharge, etc., and then the auricle and surrounding parts are carefully washed and purified with 1 in 40 carbolic lotion, care being taken to thoroughly clean all the nooks and crannies made by the foldings of the cartilage. The ear is then again syringed with 1 in 40 carbolic, and packed with a strip of gauze wrung out in the same solution; a pad of similar material covers the ear, fitting into its irregularities, some absorbent wool and a bandage securing the whole.

The first cleansing of the ear is best done with an ethereal liquid soap, which removes all fatty material without the preliminary use of ether or ammonia; in those operations which require the shaving of a portion of the head the latter should be performed first, so that the shaven part and the ear can be purified together.

At the operation, mackintosh sheeting is placed beneath the head and over the shoulders, and this is covered by a towel wrung out in 1 in 20 carbolic solution, a second towel similarly soaked being wrapped around the head, covering the hair.

The local after-treatment of operations on the ear depends much upon the

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