

tions the great strides made of late years in nursery hygiene and the study of diseases of the special senses have brought to most of us a due sense of the gravity of many maladies which were formerly considered as trivial, and of the dangers of neglecting them.

I propose to speak to you to-day, therefore, upon the commoner diseases of the ear which occur in children, and to give you a timely warning as to the danger which lies in their neglect. And I would have you remember that the affections of which I speak are every-

You probably all know that the nerves are divided into two great classes, which are called motor and sensory. The former are those by which we can move our muscles, the latter enable us to communicate with the outer world by feeling. Now sensory nerves are further divided into those of simple sense and those of special sense. The special senses are hearing, sight, smell, taste, and touch. In each case impressions from the outside world are conducted by some arrangement to the special nerve which translates them to the brain. For

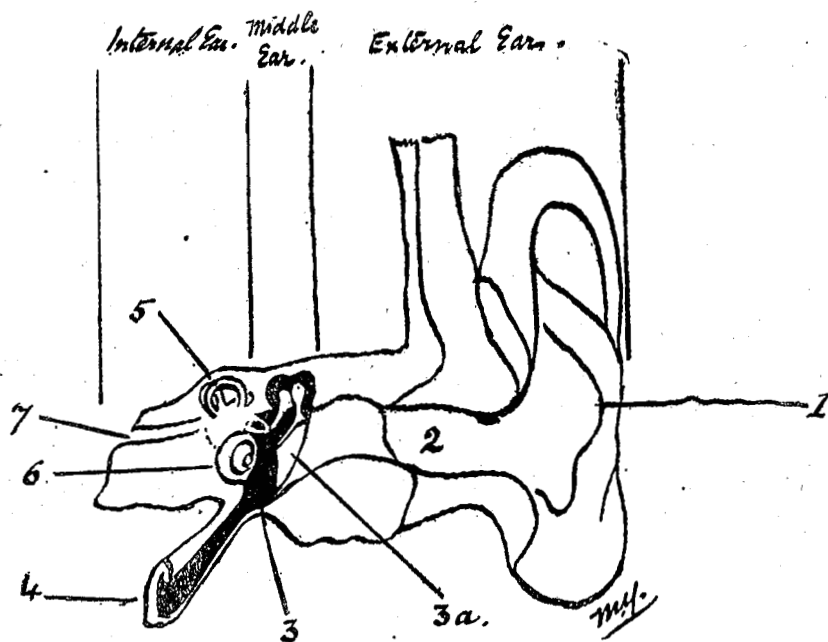


FIG. 1.—Diagram of the Left Ear.

1. Auricle. 2. External Auditory Meatus. 3. Tympanum. 3A. Tympanic Membrane. 4. Eustachian Tube. 5. Semi-circular Canals. 6. Cochlea. 7. Internal Auditory Meatus for Auditory Nerve.

day occurrences, and that ignorance of their results is responsible every year for a large percentage of deaths during infancy and childhood.

In order, however, that you should clearly understand what I have to say, it is necessary that I should give you some description of the anatomy and physiology of the ear, the throat, and the nose, and this I shall endeavour to make as simple as possible, in order not to take up too much time or to overburden and confuse you with useless detail and long names.

instance, light passes through the different structures of the eye to the retina, which is the ending of the optic nerve. Similarly, sounds are conducted to the termination of the nerve of hearing or auditory nerve, by which they are perceived by the brain. Therefore, the ear can be divided into two main portions, the *sound conducting* and the *sound perceiving* parts. The special ending of the auditory nerve is contained in a complicated apparatus called the internal ear, which is lodged in one of the bones of the head, called the temporal bone. To it sound is conveyed by the external and

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