

hoping that, by inducing an increased blood-supply, and acting as it does on the large joints of the body when stiff from injury, rheumatism, or similar causes, the adhesions might become partly absorbed or stretched and pliable, and the mechanism of the chain of small bones thus restored.

His first difficulty lay in the application of the hot air to the ear. This was not easy to overcome, but was ultimately met by the apparatus which I have here. This consists of a copper heater, worked by gas, and terminating in a funnel-shaped chimney. The patient is seated in a comfortable chair, the ear is carefully padded and protected, and the hot-air is conveyed from the chimney to the ear by means of an asbestos sleeve. The temperature, ascertained by a high registering thermometer inserted near the ear, is gradually raised until about 400 degrees Fahr. is reached, and the application lasts about half-an-hour. This high temperature is perfectly well borne, especially if the ear be kept dry by means of spirit drops used by the patient every night. After the application the drum membrane and small bones are carefully massaged by means of the Delstanche's masseur, and the ear is plugged with warm, dry cotton-wool. At the same time other necessary treatments, such as proper attention to the condition of the throat and nose, are not neglected.

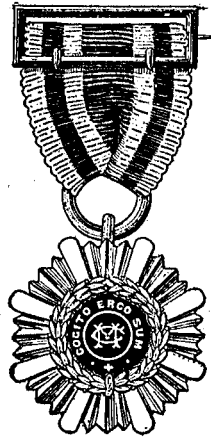
Naturally, the treatment is a very tedious one to both surgeon and patient, necessitating as it does daily applications for a period of from two to three months, each ear receiving the hot air on alternate days.

It is not my intention to weary you with any account of cases. I will merely say that of the few cases I have at present treated, two have very greatly, three considerably improved, whilst in two the results, although there has been a slight improvement, have been very disappointing. One case of sclerosis did not improve at all. With the exception of this one case of sclerosis, all have been instances of chronic deafness due to post-catarhal changes in which prolonged treatment by ordinary methods had proved unavailing. Indeed, so far, I have only attempted its use in cases regarded as practically hopeless.

I believe that there is a valuable future before the treatment in cases of post-catarhal changes in the middle ear, but I am far less sanguine when middle ear sclerosis is considered. The facts that the latter is a process in which both middle and internal ear are involved, and that the adhesions found about the stirrup bone are bony, militate strongly against the likelihood of any treatment of a surgical and local nature being of much avail.

The Matrons' Council.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.



Once again the Annual Conference of the Matrons' Council has taken place at the Medical Society's Rooms, Chandos Street, W. The attendance was most encouraging, and showed that this yearly meeting is really valued by the members, many of whom came long distances in order to be present when it took place on Thursday in last week. They foregathered not only from London and the suburbs, but from Kidderminster, Bolton, Birmingham, Bournemouth,

Brighton, Leicester, Folkestone, Stockport, Dublin, and elsewhere, even St. Petersburg and Buluwayo sending their representatives. When it is remembered what busy lives the Matrons of hospitals lead, it must be realized that their presence represents real effort, while the keenness of the discussion proved that they not only were there to learn, but to place at the disposal of the Council their own share of valuable experience in its deliberations. One noteworthy feature of these Conferences has been, year by year, the increasing readiness, one may almost say eagerness, of the members to take part in the discussions, and to express their views in well-considered language. When we remember the diffidence of members years ago in publicly voicing the views which they communicated *sotto voce* to their neighbours, and that direct invitations from the chair were given to encourage them to do so, it is almost impossible to believe that the Conference is composed of the same women, and, if the Matrons' Council has done nothing else, it is much that it has proved to its members that many of them have vocations for public speaking, and that all have ideas of value and interest to place at the disposal of their colleagues.

Noteworthy also was the manner in which the members "turned out." Indeed so tasteful and becoming were some of the gowns, that one member said to the Hon. Secretary, "Now do in reporting the meeting, say something about the charming frocks."

Punctually at 2.30 the President, Miss Isla Stewart took the chair, and expressed her pleasure at once more welcoming those present. It was two years since they had met in Annual Conference, as last year all interest was centred on the International Nurses' Congress in America,

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