

The favourite swab with Northern surgeons is of gauze (white absorbent). It is made by cutting the gauze four times the size you wish the finished square to be, turning the edges in to the depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ in., folding twice and finally making secure with needle and thread. They are tied with a band of catheter tape in bundles of one dozen each. The latter is an admirable plan, as it simplifies the counting; the bands, which are dropped in a tray as they are whipped off, acting as "counters" or "checks."

This last swab is a very good one for a dressing where sterilised swabs are required, and one enclosed in gauze is not necessary. It is quickly made and easily picked from the "drum" or keute. A piece of wool quite thin 9 in. by 3 in. is caught at either end by the right and left hands respectively, and a deft twist round the thumb and first finger of right hand, tucking underneath the remaining end, results in the "cone" (see fig. 4).

Swabs of different sorts and sizes are often kept in "keutes" of uniform size and pattern, and the Sister and nurses of a particular ward, by daily use of them, can tell by a slight blemish on their polished surfaces, a scratch or a "dent" which is which. But, alas! in an emergency a nurse strange to the ward is hopelessly at sea, and much time, not to mention temper, is lost in unnecessary opening of "keutes." To avoid this, tags of ordinary cotton tape should be sewn to the handles on the lids and neatly marked with the name of the contents, viz. :—

SWABS	SWABS	SWABS,	&c.
(gauze).	(abd.).	(rough).	

As marking-ink gets blurred with steam in the sterilising process it is advisable to sew the name in Turkey red thread.

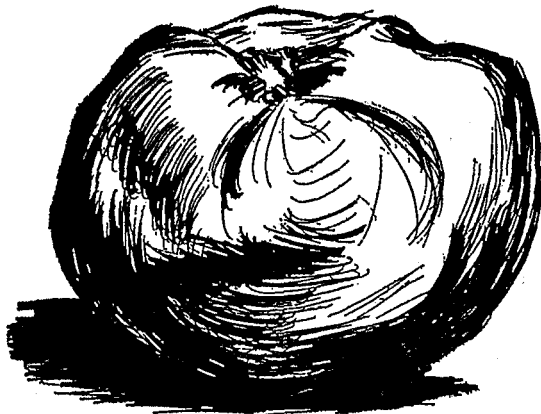


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

The Ear and Hearing.

Speaking at the Institute of Hygiene on Tuesday last, Dr. Norman Meachen said hearing is really done by the brain just as in the case of the eye, seeing is the true work of the central organ of the nervous system. The external portion of the hearing apparatus is, however, one of the most complex which Nature has provided for the accommodation of man in his environment, as it

is also one of the most potent factors in giving battle to the strong in that perennial conflict which all are waging, and that leads to the survival of the fittest. The first rudiments are crude, but they appear early on the stage of evolution, and when man comes upon the scene there are certain evidences of retrogression. He cannot prick his ears, for instance, though he retains the mechanism in a rudimentary condition that would enable him to re-acquire the faculty. Individuals are occasionally met with who can move their ears more than the normal.

Few people are aware that they carry a set of miniature pianofortes within their ears. The "organs of Corti," the essential elements in the organ of hearing, are composed of cells ar-

ranged very like the keys of a piano, with a damping contrivance having an action like that of the soft pedal. The mechanism for the transmission of sound waves in the endings of the auditory nerve is both complicated and delicate.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)