

should be loosened by soaking in antiseptic introduced by the syringe. Force should not be used in its removal, as causing needless pain and injuring the reparative processes. The packing removed, the ear is gently syringed and dried by means of small cotton swabs introduced on fine forceps or probe. The repacking is next done and here again the end of the ribbon gauze introduced *must be carried to the extreme end of the cavity*. This is usually in a direction upwards and backwards. If this is not done, false membranes, bands, and pockets will form which delay healing, defeat the object of the surgeon and may require further operation.

In both operations the dressing is completed by an antiseptic pad and bandage.

In the hints given above, allusion has been made to the use of syringing and of instillations, or drops. A few words upon both these matters will fittingly close this paper.

Syringing the ear is not so easy to perform as it appears. Indeed, it generally takes a little time before the nurse acquires the "knack" of syringing efficiently. The best instrument to use is a glass syringe of about six ounces capacity and having an asbestos plunger. This form of syringe can easily be kept clean by boiling.

The fluid for syringing should be comfortably warm, *never cold*. The patient should be seated with the affected ear towards the light and a towel and some waterproof material tucked in round the neck. He should himself hold a kidney bowl under the ear firmly against the neck. It is as well to direct him to slightly incline the head to that side.

The tip of the ear is taken between the left thumb and forefinger and gently pulled upwards and backwards. The nozzle of the syringe is then introduced into the opening of the meatus and the fluid gently ejected *along the roof, side, or floor of the passage*, not straight inwards.

Anything that comes away should always be shown to the surgeon. After syringing, the ear should be gently dried.

The use of instillations or ear drops is carried out as follows:—The patient is directed to lie down on the sound side, and the ear is filled with the drops to be applied; this can be done by means of a lipped bottle or an ordinary medicine dropper. The patient retains the drops for the period ordered, and they are then sopped out with wool or the ear syringed (if ordered). All drops, *with one exception*, should be warmed before use. The one exception is peroxide of hydrogen, which, owing to its chemical instability, requires to be used cold.

Other drops can be warmed by introducing them in a heated spoon; spirit drops are best heated by standing the bottle (*minus the stopper*) in hot water.

In conclusion, one word as to the application of leeches to the ear. These animals are ordered to be applied either to the mastoid or in front of the ear. Before their application the skin should be carefully cleansed, and the ear plugged with cottonwool. When ordered over the mastoid process they should be made to bite on the mastoid just behind the ear and not allowed to walk half-way down the neck. When applied in front of the ear, the leech should be made to bite in the little hollow in front of the small projection (tragus) which forms the anterior boundary of the entrance to the meatus. If the nurse is not sure of the spot she should ask the surgeon to mark it for her.

Our Guinea Prize.

We have pleasure in announcing that our Guinea Prize for September has been won by Miss E. L. Reynolds, Elwick Hall, Castle Eden, Durham.

KEY TO PRIZE PUZZLES.

- No. 1. Listerine
List Erin.
- No. 2. Oxo
Cox (—C) O.
- No. 3. Cadbury's Cocoa
C add berries Cock o.
- No. 4. Bryant and May's Safety Matches
Briar n T & May S Safety Mat Cheese.

The following competitors have solved the puzzles correctly:—

Miss E. E. Marshall (Leeds), Miss H. C. Wells (Sidcup), Nurse Eliza (Middlesbrough), Miss M. Morris (Brighton), Miss A. Macdonald (Edinburgh), Miss C. Massey (Limerick), Miss Taylor (Southampton), Miss Longley (York), Miss M. Parry (Maida Vale), Miss S. May (London), Miss T. Jones (Liverpool), Miss Williams (Dolgelly), Miss O'Brien (Dublin), Miss Curwen (Cork), Miss Temple (London), Miss A. F. Muller (Boxmoor), Mrs. Etheridge (West Kensington), Miss Mayor (London), Miss G. Mason (Paddington), Miss Lawson (Dunkeld), Miss C. Payne (Selkirk), Miss H. Dibben (Lynton), Mrs. Low (Manchester), Miss K. Eckersley (Middlesbrough), Miss Bacon (Houghton le Spring), Miss Dickson (Rochester), Miss Moore (London), Miss M. C. Beavan (Swanage), Miss F. A. Cronin (Trimley), Miss Vernon (Haddington), Miss Gay (London), Miss O'Connor (Fermoy), Miss C. Tregaskis (Truro).

The new set of prizes will be found on page xx. The rules remain the same.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)