

With reference to the length of time an artificial membrane can be retained in the ear, a fresh one ought to be introduced every day, and, of course, this is absolutely necessary in all cases of otorrhœa,

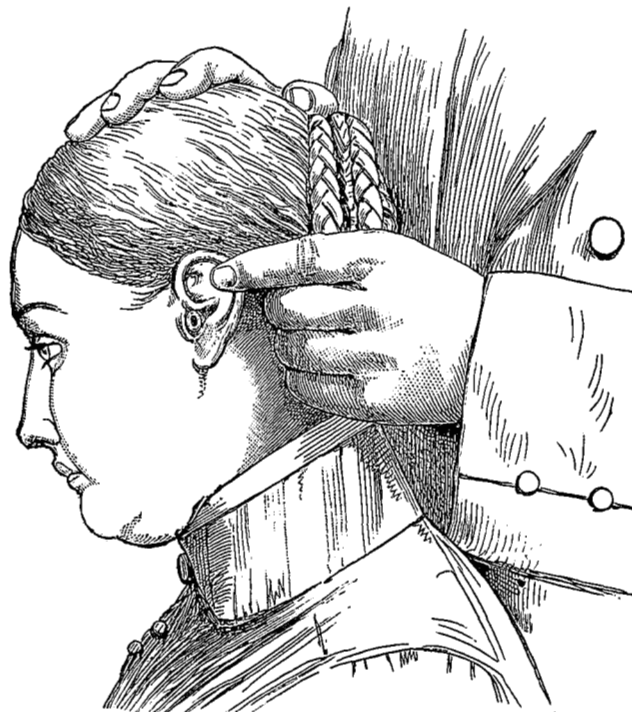


FIG. 4.

or discharge from the ear. It should be taken out during the night, and put in directly after the local treatment is finished in the morning. Some patients make one of the drumheads do for two or three days.

The new membrane is for the improvement of the hearing power in conversational intercourse, and for the protection of the injured organ during the ordinary purposes of life. It may require sometimes a little patience to learn its exact adjustment, but the effort will be followed by real benefit and diminished risk. The intensity of the sonorous vibration is often immediately increased, and patients have voluntarily told the inventor they could define sounds which before appeared to them to be only a noise. The sensibility of the organ is magnified, and the hearing power is so far improved that the patient does not appear deaf in ordinary conversation. Intercourse with friends is made easy, the hearing distance is increased, and in place of earnest looks and strained attention the countenance expresses both pleasure and repose.

Fig. 4 has been taken from the photograph of a girl, and is intended to exhibit the position of the artificial drum during traction on the ear

backwards. Under ordinary circumstances it could not be observed.

Another sketch taken from the photograph of



FIG. 5.

a patient is seen in Fig. 5. The tragus, or little eminence in front of the orifice of the ear, is here drawn forwards to expose the artificial membrane and its handle in position. The inventor is Dr. Ward Cousins, senior surgeon of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, and Messrs. Burroughs and Wellcome, of London, are the makers.

BACK NUMBERS.—The publishers will give double the price—fourpence per copy—for No. 46 of the *Nursing Record*, which is out of print. Those who have duplicate copies please note.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In the interesting letter in the *Nursing Record* of Nov. 28, 1889, on "District Nursing," your correspondent rightly understands the great difference there is between District Nursing and Hospital or Private Nursing. Whilst endorsing entirely what is said in that letter, it may not be uninteresting to your readers if I give an account of a District Nurse's Home which was started in this parish just fourteen years ago, and which is now considered by Doctors, clergy and parishioners as the most valuable Institution which any parish can possess. In 1875, when the scheme was first

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