

uration, as they may be performed upon a non-suppurating ear for severe giddiness or noises in the ear. The latter operation is a recent piece of surgical progress which otology owes to our colleague, Mr. Lake, and the first one performed by him was done at this institution.

In both forms of labyrinth operation, the radical mastoid is a necessary preliminary. It is convenient here to turn the auricle downwards, instead of the usual method of forwards, in order to obtain more room. Moist gauze should be ready to wrap it in, and a suture at hand to stitch it to the neck.

In addition to the usual instruments, small gouges, especially Lake's small curved gouge for attacking the bony labyrinthine wall, are required, together with a fine probe.

The removal of tumours from the ear does not differ from their extirpation in other regions.

In the next lecture I shall speak briefly of the *after treatment* of the operations just described.

THE PREVENTION OF SLEEPING SICKNESS.

Sleeping sickness, which has of recent years ravaged Central Africa, so that there is a danger of races becoming extinct, has been receiving considerable attention of late. The results of Dr. Koch's investigations have already been published, and recently Dr. Roubaud gave, at the Academy of Medicine at Paris, the result of his researches into the life history of the African gnat (*Glossina palpalis*), which transmits the microbe of the dread malady. The larva of this gnat buries itself under a tiny covering of soil, and there develops into a chrysalis, emerging after a month a perfect gnat. The hope for the future is that during that month the chrysalis, though very indifferent to cold, is easily destroyed by damp, and still more easily by heat. A few hours' exposure to the sun is absolutely fatal to it. Dr. Roubaud accordingly believes that it will become extinct if at every village or encampment in districts liable to Trypanosoma, a clearance is made of the thickets, near the waterpools, which are the usual safe habitat of the chrysalis. He believes that this method of extinction is simpler than that of exterminating the crocodiles (from which, after drawing blood, infection may be conveyed by the gnat to human beings), as Dr. Koch recommends.

The number of deaths from sleeping sickness in Uganda during the last seven years have been estimated by the Governor at 200,000.

Pneumococcal Infection.

Pneumonia, its cause and its effects. Briefly put, this was the subject of a lecture given recently at the out-patient department of the Mount Vernon Hospital for Consumption in Fitzroy Square, by Dr. G. F. Johnson.

To me, it opened out a new horizon.

Few nurses have gone through their period of training without at the least once or twice knowing the deep anxiety of watching through the fifth night or the seventh night, or maybe some other night, with quiet, eager keenness, with ready hand, with faculties all on the stretch, a case of pneumonia—acute, lobar pneumonia. Ten o'clock, 103.4 deg. Two o'clock, sleeping. Six o'clock, 99 deg. "Sister, oh, Sister, is it?"

And it is—and away we go off duty, thinking—some of us—that we have saved a life, whereas we have done nothing but put Mother Nature in the way of helping herself. We do wonders in the days of our early work. Later on, we grow to recognise how great are the unseen forces, how little we can do, when all is done and well done, but serve as the humble handmen and maidens, both doctors and nurses, of the silent workers of the body, more potent than all our human efforts for good or for evil.

It is thirty-three years since the beginning of what is often called the sanitary period. It is no longer ago that bacteriology became a living science. Twenty-five years since, Friedländer isolated the microcosm to which he gave the name of pneumo-bacillus. Through the centuries these microscopic organisms have mocked us with all our pride of knowledge, yet we still dare to feel ourselves proud of the advancement of science. My position is pre-eminently one of humility. I am afraid that my feeling is "all this, Science—with a big S—should have discovered long ago." If eyes and mind had been kept widely open, if an attitude of receptiveness had been encouraged and a spirit of what I can only call cocksureness condemned, the world would not have had to wait in the misery of disease for these discoveries until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The lesson is to us all.

PNEUMONIA.

Pneumonia is a disease of childhood and of old age. By the Register-General's returns 10,000 infants die annually in England and Wales from this cause alone.

What is it?

As Dr. Johnson reminded us, it is not so long since lobar pneumonia was looked upon as an inflammatory disease, pure and simple.

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