

operation in twenty-one cases was given. In thirteen cases a cure of the discharge was obtained, while in the other eight it was diminished. Dr. Hays has operated by this method on five cases with improvement in all, but without complete cessation of the discharge. After a preliminary irrigation of the tube and middle ear through a Eustachian catheter, anæsthesia is induced by the application of a solution of cocaine and adrenalin both into the middle ear and also directly to the Eustachian tube by a special applicator passed through the catheter. The tube is then explored with a special probe through the perforation in the membrane, and its calibre having been estimated the mucous membrane is removed from the walls of the isthmus of the tube down to the bone. The curettes consist of a fine curved shaft with a small hemispherical "mushroom" head, and three sizes are provided, the curette being passed, as was the probe, through the perforated drum and middle ear. The after-treatment consists of insufflations of iodoform powder. The inflammatory reaction is slight; it disappears in a few days. The author concludes (a) that a complete cure may be brought about by this operation in cases in which conditions such as bone disease or polypi are not present to keep up the suppuration; and (b) that it will complete the cure in cases in which carious bone, ossicles or polypi have been removed, and thus often prevent the necessity of recourse to the radical mastoid operation. *A. J. Wright.*

## PHARYNX.

**Gerber, Prof. (Königsberg).—Our Knowledge and Ignorance of Plaut-Vincent Angina.** "Zeitschr. f. Laryngol." Bd. iv, Heft 3.

Ultero-membranous anginas may resemble diphtheritic and syphilitic affections of the fauces and pharynx. With regard to the bacteriology of Plaut-Vincent angina it has been supposed that we have to do with two causal organisms for one disease—(a bacillus and a protozoon, symbiotic or synergistic). Others hold that the two are really only different forms or stages of the same organism, but (1) Gerber himself has never seen intermediate forms; (2) the staining reactions of the two are different—the bacilli always being darker than the spirochætes; (3) dark field preparations show more spirochætes, while stained films show more bacilli. Another important question is, Do both cause the disease or is one alone guilty? Experiments on animals seem to show that the spirochætes are the more active agents, but that the most severe changes are produced when both are present. Salvarsan is an active remedy not only against the *Spirochaeta pallida*, but against all spirochætes: it therefore acts in Plaut-Vincent angina. From an experience of three cases Gerber concludes that, when an ultero-membranous angina reacts to a specific remedy for spirochætes such as salvarsan, the angina must be a "spirochæte disease." The fusiform bacilli, however, also disappeared after "606," and Gerber says that this may have been due to the salvarsan or to the fact that the bacilli had lost their colleagues. Spirochætes and fusiform bacilli exist in the normal mouth, especially beneath the gums, in the tonsillar crypts and between the lingual papillæ; they are, however, scanty as compared with the numbers present in Plaut-Vincent angina. Further, the microscopical appearances in scorbutic ulceration are exactly the same as those in Plaut-Vincent angina. Gerber concludes that a

whole series of ulcero-membranous diseases of the oesopharynx are due to spirochaetes and fusiform bacilli, and that Plaut-Vincent angina is only a special clinical variety: in some cases the spirochaetes and fusiform bacilli are only accessory (certain forms of diphtheria), while in others they are the causal organisms. Gerber holds that the necks of the teeth are the usual nidus, and states that the organisms do not occur in infants before the first dentition.

*J. S. Fraser.*

**Kelsey, A. L.—Osteo-fibroma occupying the Tonsillar Fossa (probably of Styloid Process).** "Annals of Otol., Rhinol., and Laryngol.," vol. xx, p. 463.

Patient, a woman, aged forty-nine. Ulcerated right tonsil six years before; second attack of pain eight months ago. Palate bulged on right side by mass size of a walnut. A tentative diagnosis of sarcoma made. Operation by enucleation was attempted and the tumour was finally removed. It measured 4 cm. in all diameters save the antero-posterior, which was 3 cm., and proved to be an osteo-fibroma. Death resulted on the thirteenth day from fulminating pneumonia. *MacLeod Yearsley.*

## REVIEWS.

*The Medical Annual*, 1912. Bristol: John Wright & Sons. London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co.

The rapidity with which the *Medical Annual* has again made its appearance reminds us of the shortness of life, but the richness, freshness and abundance of the material contained in it impress upon us at the same time the length of art. Its general index contains many new headings, and its list of authors is characterised by the absence of some of the former well-known names and the addition of some new ones, but all of them standing unquestionably in the first rank of their departments. Amongst those of home growth we find such names as Thomson Walker, Tubby, Still, Purves Stewart, J. J. Perkins, C. F. Marshall, Graham Little, Leedham-Green, Priestley Leech, Robert Jones, Robert Hutchison, Sampson Handley, Goodall, Victor Bonney, Charles Bentall, all of whom are identified with the subjects allotted to them. Among foreign names we notice particularly the honoured one of Dr. Stéphane Leduc, of Nantes, who contributes an article on "Ionic Medication," but who is well known to us as the inventor of Leduc's tube for the inhalation of powders into the larynx.

In our own special department we find that the report on the diseases of the ear, nose and throat has been confided to Dr. George L. Richards, of Fall River, Mass., whose name is well and honourably known to us, and to Percy Friedenbergh, of New York, with whom we are not as yet quite so familiar. We have been hitherto thoroughly satisfied with the work afforded us in these pages, and on the whole the present ones do not suffer materially by comparison, but it will be admitted by all readers that it is an interesting and pleasant variety to study the methods adopted by the new contributors, more especially as the work is so eminently satisfactory. The references to American and foreign authors are, perhaps, somewhat more numerous than in former years, but the British authors