

Abstracts

The author's views on pharyngo-spasm are based on Killian's work on the musculature of the crico-pharyngeal region. He considers that spasmodic affections of this musculature are probably induced either by a lesion of the mucous membrane, such as an abrasion, or to some disturbance of the central nervous system as typified by the *globus hystericus*. Spasm in this region can simulate very closely carcinoma of the œsophagus. He urges that for this reason all cases of suspected carcinoma should be œsophagoscoped to exclude the possibility of spasm.

The pathology, symptomatology and treatment of œsophageal diverticula and œsophagectasia are described in detail.

MICHAEL VLASTO.

The Extraction of Foreign Bodies impacted in the Œsophagus by means of Gastrostomy. EMIL NIESERT. (*Munch. Med. Wochenschrift*, Nr. 13, 71 Jahr.)

This is the record of two cases in which tooth plates provided with hooks were easily and quickly removed through the stomach, followed by rapid and uneventful healing of the operation wounds.

The screen had, in each case, depicted that the plate was obliquely impacted, and that removal with the œsophagoscope would have been unsafe.

Atropine-morphine-chloroform-ether anæsthesia was employed, the stomach having previously been emptied. In each case the transition from stomach to œsophagus was devoid of any palpable muscle-ring or constriction, and not the least difficulty was experienced in inserting two fingers into the gullet and withdrawing the plate.

The author concludes that this is the method of choice in the removal of deep-lying foreign bodies with sharp hooks or edges.

JAMES B. HORGAN.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Section of Laryngology—President, A. Logan Turner, M.D. Hon. Secretaries, E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S., 46 Harley Street, London, W.1, and Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., 27 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 6th February, at 5 P.M. Patients will be shown at 4 o'clock. A *précis* of cases and specimens stating the more important facts and drawing attention to the points upon which discussion is invited should be placed in the hands of the Senior Hon. Secretary, Mr E. D. D. Davis.

General Notes

Section of Otolology—President, J. Kerr Love, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*, T. H. Just, F.R.C.S., 16 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W.1, and F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., 14 Welbeck Street, London, W.1.

The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Saturday, 7th February, at 10 A.M. Patients, specimens, etc., must be in the meeting-room before 9.45 o'clock, and notice of the same must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr T. H. Just.

During the Session 1924-25, the Sections will meet on the following dates:—

Section of Laryngology, on Friday, 6th March, 3rd April, 1st May (Annual), and 5th June.

Section of Otolology, on Saturday, 7th March, 2nd May (Annual), and 6th June.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, BATH, 1925.

The Ninety-third Annual Meeting of The British Medical Association will be held in Bath in the latter part of July under the Presidency of Dr F. G. Thomson, Physician to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, and Consulting Physician to the Royal Mineral Water Hospital.

On the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th July, a combined Section of Laryngology and Otolology will be held under the Presidency of Mr Arthur H. Cheatle, C.B.E., F.R.C.S.

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“THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOLLOGY, LIMITED.”

The Fourth Annual Ordinary General Meeting of the Company will be held at 11 Chandos Street, London, W.1, on the afternoon of Friday, 6th March at 6.30 o'clock. The General Report and the Balance-Sheet of the Company will be submitted.

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ANNUAL “JOURNAL” DINNER.

The Annual Journal Dinner will be held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, on Friday, 6th March, at 7.45 o'clock. The Chair will be taken by Mr Herbert Tilley, F.R.C.S., one of the Directors of the Company.

The arrangements are in the hands of Mr Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S.Ed., 50 Harley Street, London, W.1, to whom applications for seats should be addressed. Tickets 7s. 6d. are payable at the table.

Shareholders, subscribers, contributors and their guests are cordially invited.

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CHAIR OF BRONCHOSCOPY AND ŒSOPHAGOSCOPY.

The Board of Trustees and the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, have established a Chair of Bronchoscopy and Œsophagoscopy in recognition of the status which these subjects have taken in the sphere of modern medicine. Dr Chevalier Jackson has been offered and has accepted the new Professorship, resigning the Chair of Laryngology

General Notes

in the same College. Dr Jackson's new appointment, however, does not prevent him retaining the Chair of Bronchoscopy and Œsophagoscopy in the University of Pennsylvania.

We congratulate Dr Chevalier Jackson on his new appointment. His many friends in this country will be delighted to hear that he has accepted the invitation of the President of the Section of Laryngology and Otology of the British Medical Association to attend the Meeting at Bath in July and take part in the work of the Section.

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RATS, AND HOW TO DESTROY THEM.

On more than one occasion we have drawn attention to the literary efforts of our specialist confrères outside the domain of pure scientific and clinical research. We have now before us Mr Mark Hovell's book on *Rats, and How to Destroy Them*, and we congratulate him on producing a volume, which, in the words of Mr Bensusan, who writes the introduction, constitutes the most complete and reliable work on rat-destruction ever published, whether in English or any other language.

Devoted to life in the country, Mr Hovell, at the request of his father, turned his attention in his early years to the destruction of the rats in his country home, and by careful observation and after numerous experiments, he acquired a practical knowledge of the subject which has enabled him, after forty years, to become a recognised authority.

The trapping of rats in every conceivable situation is dealt with: their habits and the part which they play in the distribution of certain diseases can be studied in the pages of Mr Hovell's interesting book.

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REMOVAL OF A FOREIGN BODY FROM THE GULLET.

The following anecdote, the truth of which is vouched for by the writer, appears in a recent number of the *South African Medical Record* and is published as an example of the resourcefulness of the Back-veldt Boer.

A Mr van H., returning from the Coast, in the George district, partook of some fish, which he had cooked at the outspan. A fish-bone, unfortunately, lodged in his gullet, and stuck there in spite of large pieces of orange and bread which he swallowed unchewed. He argued that if it could not be shifted downwards, it must come up, and he forthwith conceived the brilliant idea of tying a fairly large piece of meat to a string, and, after partly swallowing the bolus, he pulled it back again—*Voilà!* the bone—first shot!

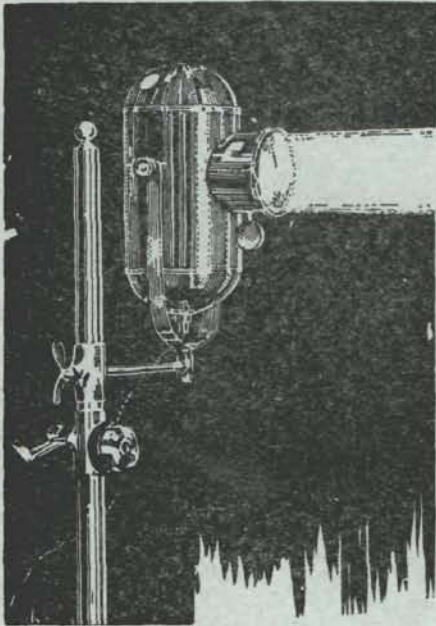
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BOOK RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Manual of Diseases of the Nose, Throat and Ear. By E. B. Gleason, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Otology, Medico-Chirurgical College Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania. Fifth Edition, thoroughly revised; 660 pages; 212 illustrations. Price 20s. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1924.

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