bottle-making entails the transference of the blow-pipe from one worker to another, and even where this is not required and each employee has his own blow-pipe, exchange for that of a fellow frequently occurs; moreover, inoculation is facilitated by the cracks and fissures so often present on the lips of glass-blowers. Cases have been recorded in which the disease was thus communicated by a single workman to as many as a dozen others. Tuberculosis may be transferred in the same manner. The author discusses the various means which have been suggested to obviate such dangers, and believes that they are to be best overcome by the use of mechanically compressed air for blowing purposes.

Thomas Guthrie.

ACCESSORY SINUSES.

Gavello, G.—*Surgical Treatment of Maxillary Sinusitis by the Nasal Route.* "Bolle. d'Malatt. del. Orrechio, etc.," November, 1906.

Having found Réthi and Claoué's methods insufficient, he obtained good results by a modification of them. He found the technique simplified by the use of a dilating trocar of his invention, which he recommends strongly to his confreres. *V. Grazzi.*

LARYNX.

Avellis, G. (Frankfort-on-Maine).—*Laryngeal Air-sacs in Man.* "Arch. für Laryngol.," vol. xix, Part III.

The writer passes in review the cases hitherto reported of laryngeal air-sac in man, and adds to their number one case which recently came under his own observation. The patient was a little girl, aged four, whose voice had for a long time been somewhat muffled, although she was otherwise in perfect health. Laryngoscopic examination was very difficult, but a swelling was seen in the ventricle on the right side. Externally no abnormality could be detected except on forced (*quetschend*) screaming or shouting, or on violent coughing, when a swelling slowly appeared on the neck in the neighbourhood of the larynx, at first on the right side and then on the left. These swellings extended from the margin of the lower jaw almost to the clavicle on either side; they were soft and elastic, and yielded a tympanitic note on percussion. They gradually subsided after the cessation of the forced phonation. Operation was not considered advisable.

So far as the writer is aware, but little attention has been devoted to this subject since the work of E. Meyer, in the year 1902, on the laryngeal air-sacs of apes. The large size of these structures in some of the anthropoid apes (orang and gorilla) makes the question of their significance an interesting one. In the howling monkey alone are the sacs, by their persistent distension and by the partial calcification of their walls, adapted for giving resonance to the voice. In all the other monkeys and apes the sacs possess soft walls, and are almost always in a state of collapse. The writer, therefore, believes that these structures should be regarded as vestigial in all those of the Primates in which they are found, with the single exception of the howler. The further consideration that they are occasionally, though very rarely, found in man may be sufficient

to justify the conclusion that the common ancestor of man and the anthropoid apes possessed these structures in a highly developed form, and made use of them for adding resonance to the voice.

Thomas Guthrie.

EAR.

Langworthy, H. Glover (Dubuque, Iowa).—*A Case of Hysterical Mastoid Tenderness and Pain without Functional Disturbance.* "Arch. of Otol.," vol. xxxv, No. 5.

There was, in this case, no appearance of disease, and the functional tests indicated a normal condition. The neurologist observed very slight nystagmus, a hyperæsthetic area over the right mastoid, very slight spasm of the right sterno-mastoid muscle. Under psycho-therapeutical treatment the pain and tenderness entirely disappeared. A diagnosis was made on the strength of the predominance of subjective over objective symptoms, the presence of a very slight contracture, the history of nervousness in the patient and the family. *Dundas Grant.*

Boenninghaus (Breslau).—*The Theory of Sound-conduction.* "Arch. of Otol.," vol. xxxv, No. 5.

The author discusses the question as to whether the vibrations of the basilar fibres in the cochlea are set going by the movements of the water column in the labyrinth in mass or molecular movement, his opinion being in favour of the latter, and, in support of it, he quotes the fact that the stapes of the whale is physiologically immobile, in spite of which the animal must probably have extremely delicate hearing, as its sense of smell and touch, which are so highly developed in the fishes, are absent, and the eye in the water can only be of very slight value. He explains the prolonged bone-conduction in obstructions of the sound-conducting apparatus by the whole of the vibrations being transmitted as molecular movement, whereas, when the sound-conducting apparatus is not abnormally tense some of this is lost in setting the conducting apparatus into motion. *Dundas Grant.*

Meierhof, E. L.—*Prognosis of Mastoid Operations in Diabetic Cases.* "Arch. of Otol.," vol. xxxvi, Nos. 1 and 2.

In view of the tendency in any diabetic for acute purulent inflammation of the middle ear to assume a destructive course in the mastoid, the writer advises opening the bone if there is no marked decrease in the secretion of pus after a few days, without waiting for the classical symptoms. He believes that in the future the results of mastoid operations in diabetics will be increasingly satisfactory, even with the presence of a high percentage of sugar in the urine. He quotes the experience of Buch, Eulenstein, Wolf, Schwabach, Moos, Koerner, Muck, Friedrich, Barth, McCuen Smith and others in support of his views.

Dundas Grant.

Schoenborn, S. (Heidelberg).—*Acute Cerebral Polyneuritis with Involvement of the Acoustic Nerve.* "Münch. med. Woch.," May 14, 1907.

Eight days after exposure to cold, the patient, aged twenty-two, experienced a feeling of vertigo and nausea and soon afterwards immobility of the left side of the face and indistinctness of vision with,