IX.

REPORT OF CASES. 1. SIMPLE MASTOIDECTOMY ON MAN, 81 YEARS OLD. 2. INFECTIVE SIGMOID SINUS THROMBOSIS — A POSITIVE BLOOD CULTURE WITH STREPTOCOCCUS MUCOSUS CAPSULATUS PRESENT.

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Case 1.—In September, 1917, I was called out of the city to see Mr. A. in consultation.

He gave a history of pain in his right ear for two weeks. On examination I found tenderness over the mastoid on pressure. The drum was very red and bulging.

A free myringotomy was done and he was removed to the Norfolk Protestant Hospital for observation. There was a profuse purulent discharge from the ear and the pain gradually became worse. On the fourth day after seeing him I decided to operate. On account of his age and general condition I attempted to operate under local anesthetic. Being unable to get any cooperation from my patient, I found it impossible, so a simple mastoidectomy was performed under ether anesthesia.

The mastoid cells were found to be pretty thoroughly destroyed. Dura was exposed in the operation.

One week after the operation he developed an infection in the left ear. A free myringotomy was done.

He made an uneventful recovery. He is living today and is enjoying comparatively good health.

Case 2.—I did a simple mastoidectomy on M. T., 10 years old, at St. Vincent's Hospital.

There was nothing unusual about the case. A culture from the mastoid showed streptococcus mucosus capsulatus. Sinus and dura were both exposed in the operation.

The child did well, and after the first week the temperature became normal and remained so until the twelfth day. On the night of the twelfth day after the operation she had a severe chill, with a rise of temperature to 105° F. The next day her temperature returned to normal. The pulse rate was 150 beats per minute, and she was completely prostrated. During the day she had another chill, with a rise of temperature to 105° F.

She was taken to the operating room. The mastoid wound was opened and the sinus freely exposed. The jugular vein was ligated and then the sinus was opened.

The report from the blood culture was positive, with streptococcus mucosus capsulatus present.

After a long illness she finally recovered.