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occurred within the last two or three years, and with the exception of three, none have been reported. The amount of epinephrin used was carefully investigated, and was not considered a factor in any case.

In a previous report (*Journ. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, No. 75, 315, 31st July 1920), 21 deaths were recorded, 15 from cocaine and 6 from procaine.

The report considers that there are many more fatalities occurring among general surgeons, the specialists, and also amongst dentists.

The following conclusions are recorded :—

(1) Deaths from the administration of local anæsthetics are vastly in excess of the number reported in the medical journals.

(2) In most instances convulsions are the first indication of toxic effects; consciousness is never regained, and death ensues within a comparatively short time.

(3) The customary dosage of local anæsthetics varies from small amounts to very large ones.

(4) There is no check on the manufacturer as to the comparative toxicity of the various batches of drugs that are placed on the market.

(5) The freedom from all effects noticed by so many who have used these drugs has made them oblivious to the likelihood of danger.

(6) The presumption of the Therapeutic Research Committee of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, that there are many unrecorded deaths, is thoroughly substantiated.

(7) The appointment of a commission to investigate further these deaths and to take action thereon is vitally necessary.

PERRY GOLDSMITH.

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Traité des Affections de l'Oreille. M. LERMOYEZ, N. BOULAY, and A. HAUTANT. Royal 8vo, 1000 pages. Published by G. Doin. Paris, 1921.

This is the first of two volumes dealing with diseases of the ear. It includes the methods of examination, generalities of technique, and therapeutics and affections of the Middle and External Ear. Diseases of the Internal Ear and Oto-sclerosis are not included in this volume.

The character of the book is similar to that of most first-class French scientific books in the following respects. It is well printed and illustrated, very well written, wretchedly bound, and very badly indexed. The style, which is best described as "racy," compels and retains the interest of the reader. Classification and Sub-classification

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are carried out to a degree which, at first, is somewhat confusing, but undoubtedly helps accuracy of thought and expression.

One is impressed by the impartiality with which all views are weighed and discussed, and the judiciousness with which they are accepted or refuted. For instance, 30 pages are devoted to the after-treatment of the Radical Mastoid wound. Gauze-packing is contrasted with the boracic powder method. The latter method consists in daily filling up the mastoid wound (after removing the initial gauze-packing on the fifth day) with sterilised boracic powder. Again, the technique of Heath's modified radical mastoid operation is described. The indications and contra-indications are analysed. The conclusions at which the authors finally arrive are that "We do not consider that the conservative mastoid operation will occupy an important position in the treatment of otorrhœa, or become a classical intermediary step between conservative measures and the complete operation."

One of the most interesting sections of the book is that referring to operations on the mastoid. The position of the antrum, as Cheatle has pointed out before, is given considerably above the traditional situation. They state that in 45 per cent. of cases the floor of the antrum is situated above a line drawn horizontally backwards from the supero-posterior margin of the auditory meatus. The actual steps of the operation, both acute and chronic, are exceedingly well described with the assistance of some excellent illustrations. Particularly one might mention the directions given for the final levelling of the posterior meatal wall and the facial spur. Incidentally, no mention is made of the Hugh Jones line. On the whole, the methods employed are much the same as in this country. There are, however, a few exceptions. For instance, it is urged that the plug inserted into the sulcus lateralis to arrest hæmorrhage should not be removed before, at the earliest, ten days, if one wishes to make certain that hæmorrhage will not recur. They counsel against immediate operation in the case of a facial paresis occurring in the course of a chronic suppurating otitis media. "To operate at once means that sometimes a temporary paresis may be rendered permanent."

The immediate closing of the acute mastoid wound is condemned. Hautant, in spite of a series of ten consecutive cases of treatment with primary suture, considers the method too risky and uncertain to be justifiable.

M. VLASTO.

Technique Oto-Rhino-Laryngologique Semiotique et Thérapeutique.

E. ESCAT. Troisième édition revue et augmentée. Paris:

A. Maloine et Fils, 1921.

The third edition of this well-known book presents a minutely complete account of the technique of Oto-rhino-laryngology. It is