group. It must also be admitted that his patience must be like that of the patriarch, for he makes no complaint whatever! And yet he tells us that his own material in eighteen years amounts to no fewer than 580 cases.

To be quite just, however, we ought perhaps to add that cases of vacuum frontal headache probably go to the ophthalmic clinics, since the headache is of the asthenopic type in being produced by eye work. But it is unrelieved by wearing glasses, and it is associated with a characteristic sign (Ewing's), namely tenderness on pressure at a spot at the upper and inner angle of the orbit, at or near the attachment of the pulley of the superior oblique muscle.

The headache is said to be due to the production of a vacuum in the frontal sinus following the blocking of the infundibulum by swelling of the cavernous mucosa around its orifice in the middle meatus of a narrow nose. At all events it is generally cured by removing part of the middle turbinal and by the consequent free ventilation of the spaces.

The subject of the symptoms induced by disease affecting Meckel's ganglion is also one of great interest, especially from the point of view of treatment. Full anatomical data are given of the situation and relations of this important ganglion, and we are surprised when we come to realise how near it lies to the nasal mucosa and how accessible it is to acupuncture from the nasal cavity.

Surprise also awaits us in the final chapter—that dealing with the sphenoidal sinus and the adjoining structures. How many of us have ever suspected that that sinus may actually come into contact with the Eustachian tube? The bearing of this fact upon Dr. Watson-Williams' theories of the origin of middle-ear catarrhs needs no emphasising.

In his section on the treatment of sphenoidal sinus disease the author indulges in a general survey of the operative surgery of the nasal accessory sinuses, and the reader will find much to interest and to stimulate him in Dr. Sluder's suggestions and experiences. Among other points, we note that he favours, in the operation of nasal antrostomy, the detachment of the inferior turbinal and its retention after the artificial opening has been made into the cavity. Theoretically this modification appears to have many advantages, but it is open to the serious objection, as the reviewer found some years ago, that although the main blood-supply reaches the turbinal from behind, when that body is to any considerable extent separated in front from the lateral nasal wall it may subsequently undergo sloughing and give rise to rather alarming local and general phenomena.

In every respect the book is well detailed and thorough; perhaps, indeed, it is a little too minutely detailed and thorough to be easily assimilated.

Dan McKenzie.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngology for the Student and Practitioner. By Dr. GEORGES LAURENS. Authorised English Translation of the second revised French edition, by H. CLAYTON FOX, F.R.C.S.(Irel.); with a Foreword contributed by J. DUNDAS GRANT, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. With 592 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1919. Price 17s. 6d.

Mr. Clayton Fox's translation of this popular French book is in every way excellent, substituting, as he does with great skill, a racy English style for the terse and pointed French.

We have already reviewed the book in this Journal and have little or nothing to add to the praise we then bestowed upon it, and more particularly upon its eloquent illustrations.

The book is intended for general practitioners, but such readers should avoid looking upon its dicta as representing modern British opinion. Thus very few throat-surgeons in this country would support the author's "rule" on p. 237 in dealing with tonsillotomy: "Never employ the guillotine." It is strange to notice, by the way, how slowly tonsillectomy seems to be making its way on the Continent. The difficulty, of course, lies in inducing men to substitute a major for a minor surgical procedure, but there is no doubt that total removal of the gland, with all its dangers and difficulties, has come to stay.

Dan McKenzie.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

We are indebted for the following note to our esteemed contemporary, *The Medical Press*, December 31, 1919.

"GUAIACOL AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

"Dr. Georges Laurens advises the use of guaiacol as an anæsthetic for the more ordinary operations on the ear, nose and throat. As regards the ear, and more especially paracentesis of the drum, he employs a solution of synthetic guaiacol in oil. The latter should be prepared in the manner recommended by Lucas Championnière. Very pure olive oil should first be treated with chloride of zinc in order to get rid of resinous and proteid substances, then washed with alcohol to remove any fatty acids formed, and finally it should be kept at a temperature of 100° C. for some time. The product thus obtained is extremely pure.

"Dr. Laurens at first made use of a 1 in 10 solution of guaiacol, but he soon abandoned it in favour of a 1 in 20 solution, as he found that the latter produced quite satisfactory anæsthesia. As regards the technique, he follows very closely that recommended by Dr. Lermoyez. The ear is cleansed first with tepid sterile water, and then with a solution of carbolic acid. Five or six drops of the guaiacol solution are next introduced into the ear and allowed to remain during fifteen or twenty minutes. It is then removed by means of a tampon of cotton-wool, so that the passage is quite clear and the operator may see what he is doing.

"For the operations in the nose and throat, the solution is applied by repeated paintings. The quantity of solution used has never been more than 2 c.c.

"It is important to note that anæsthesia is obtained much more slowly than with cocaine. With the latter ten minutes sufficed, but with guaiacol one must wait at least fifteen or twenty minutes."

OTOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

The next meeting of this Section will be held on February 20, 1920. Notices and papers to be in hand not later than February 8. Secretaries: Mr. H. Buckland Jones and Mr. Lionel Colledge.

LARYNGOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.

The next meeting of this Section will be held on March 5, 1920. Notices and papers to be in hand not later than February 23. Secretaries: Dr. Irwin Moore and Mr. Charles W. Hope.

BOOK RECEIVED.

Oto-Rhino-Laryngology for the Student and Practitioner. By *Dr. Georges Laurens*. Authorised English Translation of the Second Revised French Edition, by *H. Clayton Fox, F.R.C.S.(Irel.)*; with a Foreword contributed by *J. Dundas Grant, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S.* With 592 illustrations. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd., 1919. Price 17s. 6d.