

**The Tonsils as Places of Entrance for Severe General Infections.**—Dr. F. JESSEN, Senior Physician in the Vereins Hospital of Hamburg, contributes to the *Munch. med. Woch.*, 1898, No. 23, an article in which he sums up some of the literature, and reports a number of cases showing that tonsils are the places of entrance of infection in many instances attributed to different origin, some of them even without any manifestation of disease upon the surface of the tonsils.

He likewise contends that many and varied cases of so-called scrofula are generally infectious from some portion of the lymphoid ring crossing the roof of the pharynx, and often promptly cured by removal of the diseased tissue.

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## OTOLOGY.

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UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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**Acute Mastoiditis.**—Extra- and intramastoiditis, three months after measles in a child aged six years, attended with œdema of the face and side of the head, extending to the thin bony plate of the middle fossa, entirely relieved by a mastoid operation by Dr. B. M. Baker, is reported by J. F. WOODWARD (*New York Medical Journal*, October 9, 1897). [The suggestion to ward off acute mastoiditis in acute otitis media, by syringing sterilized water, or any antiseptic, through the Eustachian tube (GROSSARD, *Journal of Eye, Ear, and Throat Disease*, October, 1897) we consider irrational and irritative, and therefore promotive of mastoiditis.]

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**Pus in the Lateral Ventricle.**—A remarkable and fatal result of acute otitis media has been observed by A. LEVY (*Archiv f. Otol.*, July, 1897) in a man who recovered from the acute ear-disease in a month. Two weeks later he was seized with moderate pain in the previously diseased ear, which lasted for one day, and was succeeded by pain in the abdomen, vomiting, and slight fever. A week later there ensued stupor, vertigo without headache, coma, and death. The autopsy revealed caries of the lower part of the petrous bone and pus in the lateral ventricle. The middle ear was normal, except for the swelling of the mucous membrane.

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**Otitic Pyæmia.**—Two cases of otitic pyæmia resulting from acute otitis media in young subjects, aged twelve and fourteen years, are presented by H. EULENSTEIN (*Archiv f. Otol.*, April, 1898).

The first case proved suddenly fatal from sinus thrombosis, as discovered at the autopsy. Recovery ensued in the second case after a mastoid operation, exposure of the bony wall of the lateral sinus, and removal of its necrotic portions. Pyæmic temperature continued for a week. The sinus was not opened, but Eulenstein believes that there existed in this instance simply a parietal thrombus from inflammation of the bony wall of the sinus.