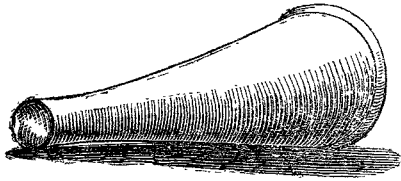


ON A NEW SPECULUM-AURIS.

By J. COOPER FORSTER, M.B. Lond., F.R.C.S.,
SURGEON TO THE SURREY DISPENSARY, ETC.

HAVING in my own practice often experienced the greatest difficulty in examining the ear when the disease is seated in the membrana tympani or its vicinity, I am induced to trouble the profession with a short account of a speculum, which has enabled me to conduct the inquiry with much greater accuracy than I could otherwise have done.

The auditory canal, as shown by anatomical dissection, is a tube expanded at both extremities, with a distinct central contraction, varying in length in different persons, constituting its middle third, and is formed, throughout its entire extent, of bone or dense cartilage. Bearing this anatomical fact in mind, we are compelled to discard the speculum used by Itard and Kramer, as it seems futile to use a dilating instrument in a canal incapable of dilatation. Mr. Wilde, of Dublin, has recommended a simple conical tube, which, in ordinary cases, is a most useful instrument, but when the canal is deep, sufficient light is not by its means thrown on the membrana tympani. Feeling this deficiency, and at the same time remembering the central contraction in the tube, I gave directions to Mr. Bigg, of St. Thomas'-street, to add to Mr. Wilde's instrument, three-eighths to half an inch of silver tubing, of the diameter of the small end of the cone. By the instrument thus modified, and represented in the accompanying woodcut, the membrana tympani is more clearly seen,



and changes in the deeper portion of the canal more easily recognised.

In illustration, I may mention the case of a gentleman, who, after a careful examination by a celebrated aurist, was declared free from any abnormal condition of the canal. The meatus auditorius was not very large, but the canal of an enormous depth. I introduced the instrument, and immediately detected a pellet of wax enclosed in the lining membrane of the canal, which was entirely removed by the free use of the syringe for an hour. I have a firm conviction that, in this case, no other speculum would have been of any use, as the distance between the end of the instrument and the membrane was so great, that the space remained unilluminated. This patient had been deaf twelve years, during which time he had consulted many surgeons; when he left me he could hear as well as he ever could in his life. The instrument has the further advantages of cheapness and portability, and I hope it may prove as useful to others as it has done to me.

Wellington-street, London-bridge, July, 1850.

ON TUBERCULAR DISEASE IN AN INFANT.

By JOHN A. JAMIESON, M.D., Helensburgh.

In the Periscope of the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review* for the present month is a paper by M. Grisolle, in which it is stated that tuberculous disease in an infant, previous to dentition, is a very rare occurrence. As the profession seems to be almost sceptical of its ever occurring at all, I will relate from memory, as nearly as I can, the results of a post-mortem, which occurred within the last month, on an infant, two months old. It was a very weakly child from birth, and I thought at the time it would not live. However, contrary to my expectations, it did live for nearly two months, but never grew any, or very little; and it always was a very small child. It had for some time before death, cough and dyspnoea, was ruptured from birth at the umbilicus, and had double scrotal hernia. It was more for the sake of ascertaining the state of the hernia, than of the chest, that I made an examination, which I will now give in as few words as possible.

On opening the abdomen, the bowels were all quite healthy—even the herniated parts were quite natural in appearance. I did not open the bowels, which were distended with gas, and which I now regret. But the appearance of the liver surprised me. On its convex surface it was quite studded over with very small cartilaginous tubercles, and was slightly congested. On

opening the thorax, the right lung was pale and almost exsanguineous, but had the same gristly, hard feel, from numerous small, hard, tubercular deposits. The left lung was different: it was slightly adherent to the pleura costalis, and was highly congested, with very marked differences from the right lung. The upper lobe seemed to me to be in the state of a lung which has succumbed from pneumonia; but the lower lobe was quite as if it were a mass of tubercular matter, with small pieces of the lung free, but numerous deposits of the same matter all throughout it, and which, when cut into, had the feeling of cutting through cheese, quite soft, and different from those on the opposite side, which were hard and unbroken.

As the father of the infant was looking on all the while, I could not make such a minute examination as I could have wished, and did not open the cranium or inspect the kidney, or other parts, where there might possibly have been more of the same matter.

Dumbartonshire, Helensburgh, July, 1850.

Reviews and Notices of Books,

AND ALSO

Analyses of Papers in Manuscript

SENT FOR PUBLICATION IN THE LANCET.

Health, Disease, and Remedy, familiarly and practically Considered. By GEORGE MOORE, M.D. Fcp. 8vo, pp. 357. Longman & Co.

DR. MOORE is favourably known to the profession and the public by his works on Mind in its Relation to the Body. The present book is written in a benevolent spirit, and is the production of an accomplished physician. To use the author's words, "It is neither a popular compendium of physiology, a hand-book of physic, an art of healing made easy, a medical guide-book on domestic medicine, a digest of old scraps on digestion, nor a dry reduction of a better book, but rather a running comment on a few prominent truths in medical science, viewed according to the writer's own experience, and on the principles of common sense."

Dr. Moore has well succeeded in the object he had in view; and whilst his book cannot fail to be perused with interest by the non-professional reader, the practitioner of medicine may find in its pages sufficient to reward him for becoming a reader.

The Commercial Hand-book of Chemical Analysis. By A. NORMANDY, M.D. 12mo, pp. 640. London: G. Knight & Sons.

THIS work is really what its name expresses; and to all persons connected in a commercial point of view with that vast range of substances which are included under the name of chemical, it must be of the utmost value. The hand-book is written in a clear and familiar style, and its pages are made more easy of comprehension by a great number of well-executed wood-cuts.

A Treatise on Salt, showing its Hurtful Effects on the Body and Mind of Man, and on Animals; its Tendency to Cause Disease, &c. By ROBERT HOWARD, M.D. Pamphlet, pp. 43. London: W. & T. Piper.

THE author is so staunch a lover of antiquity, that he borrows from the inscriptions on the Egyptian temples and images, a code of health which is to supersede entirely all modern discoveries and improvements. It is too plain, from the earnest tone of the pamphlet, that the writer is in earnest, or we should have been inclined to have classed his production among those which were written by the Laputan philosophers. Certain it is, that none of the speculations of the learned men of that far-famed island were more deserving of immortality than this of Dr. Howard.

On the Health of London, during the Six Months ending March, 1850. By JOHN WEBSTER, M.D., F.R.S.

IN this valuable little pamphlet, Dr. Webster has touched upon two points which we think worthy to be extracted