

diminution of irritability of the labyrinth is possible by means of cold, and by galvanic current [anode]. Alcohol, chloral, paraldehyde, adalin, aleudoin, and luminal influence the labyrinth.

Castex, A. THE EAR AND DEAFNESS IN MUSICIANS. [Bulletin de l'Académie de médecine, June 10, 1919.]

This paper points out that among musicians various forms of deafness determine special symptoms not observed in other patients. Anatomically the musician's ear presents no special characteristics, but physiologically it does, perceiving details, such as harmonics, which escape the ear of the nonmusical. It is the musician's brain, however, rather than his ears which perceives these minor details. Grouping his cases, the author found that deafness may alter the intensity, pitch, and timbre of the sounds heard. The ear undergoing sclerosis can no longer hear any but the acute and metallic sounds. It hears nothing of the words uttered by the singer. As regards pitch, there are cases of diplacusia. One ear hears correctly and the other half a tone or even an octave lower. There are also faulty perceptions of tonality, and prolonged persistence of sounds. As concerns timbre, the sounds lose their musical quality and are heard simply as noises; or the instruments may seem to have a nasal or a silverlike quality. Painful hyperacusia is not uncommon among deaf musicians. Some fall into syncope from the action of intense sounds—organ or brass band—because their diseased ear has lost the services of its inhibitory apparatus. The prognosis depends on the temporary or permanent nature of the otic disorder; but incomplete deafness does not keep a musical ear from appreciating the qualities and accessory effects of sounds.

Marage. CAUSES AND DURATION OF WAR DEAFNESS. [Bulletin de l'Académie de médecine, June 10, 1919.]

Experiments with explosives are here discussed with bearing on this question. The curves obtained indicated that the initial excess of atmospheric pressure induced by discharge of modern explosives is at least 150 to 300 kilograms to a square centimeter and that the initial rate of displacement of the pressure waves is 2,000 to 3,000 meters a second. They showed also that the excess pressure and its rate of displacement decrease rapidly as the distance from the center of explosion increases, the pressure falling to two or three kilograms to a square centimeter at a distance of twenty meters, and being practically nil at a distance of fifty or sixty meters. In some instances, however, an excess pressure of one millimeter of mercury was registered 1,300 meters away from the explosion of a large caliber shell. Simple explosive charges showed a uniform diffusion of the pressure waves about the center of explosion. In the case of shells, however, there was a zone of very high pressure exactly lateral to the exploding projectile, cones of somewhat lower