

ACUTE SUPPURATIVE OTITIS MEDIA.

[*Clinic of E. Grove Anthony M. D. From Notes of Dr. Brier*]

A lady Mrs. G——age 60; occupation, dressmaker; father died at the age of 64 of consumption, mother died at the age of 79 of general debility; seven brothers, all dead, five sisters, two dead, one of consumption, the other of general debility. No other deaths from consumption or any other constitutional trouble. At the age of sixteen, patient was sick of some form of fever; two weeks after this had chills and fever which lasted three years. Had a stomach trouble twenty-one years ago. For fifteen years would have acute attacks once a year, then once every three years. Always in berry season. Also fifteen years ago a skin trouble commenced in the form of little blisters or papules which itched intensely; appeared principally upon hips and back, but some on arms and legs. Had a dark, scaly patch on forehead for several years, but did not itch. When stomach trouble was the worst the skin trouble would be better, and sometimes entirely leave, to return when stomach was better. Had an attack about Christmas last of cold and a general inflammation of the respiratory tract; great burning and pain about the forehead and eyes and a complete stopping up of the nasal passages. At this time ears began to buzz and patient heard many unpleasant noises in ears, with great pain in ears, which caused a loss of sleep for several nights; pain growing more intense until a loud report was heard in ear and a discharge of pus streaked with blood appeared and pain subsided, but from the first deafness was a prominent symptom, but no dizziness as is common with these cases. Upon examination the canal was found to be much inflamed. On its walls was a great deal of dried pus and ear wax. Tympanum pouched out, with a perforation of the drum at the anterior inferior quadrant. This trouble is usually secondary to some other trouble, but, as a rule, the trouble is the result of different conditions of nose and naso pharynx, adenoid growths and inflammations of the pharyngeal tonsils, filling the naso pharyngeal vault with vegetations, looking like a number of large warts or form pharyngeal polipi, on enlarged inferior turbinated bones.

In this case there was an acute inflammation of the mucous lining of the nose, extending up through the eustachian tube, resulting as above. These troubles may prove fatal at any time

during the acute attack, however there is the most danger by involving the juglar vein and resulting in embolism, or may extend to mastoid cells and cause an abscess, which is most always fatal, or involve the plate of bone between the tympanum and facial nerve, absorbing the bone and influencing the nerve so as to cause paralysis of the face.

Prognosis in this case is favorable if treated properly—but if not may become chronic and involve other structures as mentioned—perforation will heal and partial hearing will be restored and, possibly, complete.

The treatment is both constitutional and local. Indeed a great deal depends upon constitutional, and digestion must be kept as near perfect as possible. Patient has been taking to assist digestion, etc. :

R. Populus comp. po.
 Helonias dio. po.
 Xanthox. frax. po.
 Myrrh, gum po. - - - - - aa g ij

M. 1 No. 2 caps. every two hours.

For the spot on forehead an ointment was used, which caused it to disappear:

R. Pwd. sanguinaria, - - - - - 3 iv.
 Ol. lobelia, - - - - - gtts. vj.
 Vaseline - - - - - 3 j.

M. Ft. ung. Apply at night and morning.

The caps. were advised to be kept up, and ointment re-applied if spot returned on head. In connection give as constitutional treatment :

R. Fl. ext. gentian.
 Fl. ext. iris v.
 Tinct. phytolacca, - - - - - aa 3 iv.
 Tr. Sanguinaria, - - - - - 3 ii.
 Syr. rhei et potassa, qs. ad. - - - - - 3 iv.

M. Sig. Teaspoonful three times daily.

As a local treatment to nose and throat use

R. Glycerile of tar, - - - - - 3 iv.
 Ext. Pinus can., Kennedy's dark, - - - - - gtts. xv.
 Sodium bi carb., - - - - - grs. viij.
 Aqua rosa, qs. ad., - - - - - 3 iv.

M. Sig. Use as a spray twice daily followed by
℞. Eucalyptol, - - - - - 3j.
Vaseline, - - - - - 3j.

M. Sig. Use as a spray.

To ear, cleanliness is the main feature. Use with a syringe the following to cleanse out ear :

℞. Boracic acid, - - - - - 3j.
Sul. hydrastia, - - - - - grs. j.

M. In half glass warm water. Sig. Use morning and night.

To treat this successfully the ear should be inflated two or three times a week. The best method to do this is called Politzer's, and consists in filling a rubber bag with air and placing to nostril, directing patient to hold other nostril shut at the same time; have patient to hold a sip of water in the mouth and when you tell them have them swallow water and at the same time force air through the nostril. This course pursued for five or six months will result in a cure in most all such cases.

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