

Asthma: Its Cause and Treatment.—Ewbank, W. W. "The Medical Journal of Australia," July 22, 1916.

Spasmodic asthma is a dyspnoea produced by a reflex contraction of the bronchial muscles and a dilatation of the bronchial vessels. The source of irritation is in some portion of the mucous membrane lining the nose.

Defining the reflex arc, Ewbank gives a detailed description of the nerve supply of the nose. Some abnormal nasal condition is always the direct cause of asthma. This is the exciting cause, and behind this there is some predisposing cause which has not yet been determined, but in some cases may be due to a want of balance on the part of some of the endocrinous glands.

Causes and Treatment.—(1) *Chronic hypertrophic rhinitis*: When the inferior turbinal swells and touches the septum, an attack is started. On removing this portion of mucous membrane the attack ceases. Other points of contact develop, and must be dealt with in turn till all excitable areas have been removed. The patient then gets no more asthma. The treatment may take six to nine months. It would be quite easy to remove all redundant tissue at one time, but the less tissue removed compatible with cure the better. (2) *Asthmogenic points*: These are hyperæsthetic nerve-endings. They are roughly the size of a millet-seed. They occur in the region of the middle or inferior turbinated bodies, and may be eight or ten in number on one side. Sometimes they can only be detected during an attack. They must be dissected out. Ewbank condemns the use of the cautery for treating any nasal condition giving rise to asthma. (3) *Septal spurs*. (4) *Deviated septum*, if present, requires to be corrected. (5) *Œdematous patches of mucous membrane* on the outer wall of one or both fossæ. These patches become swollen and paler than the surrounding tissue. They are about half the size of a threepenny-bit. They pour out a clear fluid. They must be sought for and removed. Two or more of the above causes may be associated in one case. Ewbank says the cautery, as generally applied, does not destroy the asthma spots, or if some nerve endings are destroyed a neuroma forms under the scar. By his method of treatment in 500 cases he claims 82 per cent. cured where the cautery has not been previously applied, where it has the percentage of cures is reduced to 62 per cent. A. J. Brady.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

DR. ALBERT A. GRAY.

Dr. Albert A. Gray has been appointed Lecturer in Diseases of the Ear to the University of Glasgow and Aural Surgeon to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, in place of the late Dr. Thomas Barr.

ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS.

Flexner states that the virus of infantile paralysis is known to leave the infected human body in the secretions of the nose, throat, and intestines. It also escapes from contaminated healthy persons in the secretions of the nose and throat. The virus enters the body, as a rule, by way of the mucous membranes of the nose and throat. Here it multiplies and later penetrates to the brain and spinal cord by way of the lymphatics.—A. O'REILLY, *Interstate Medical Journal*, February, 1917, p. 130.

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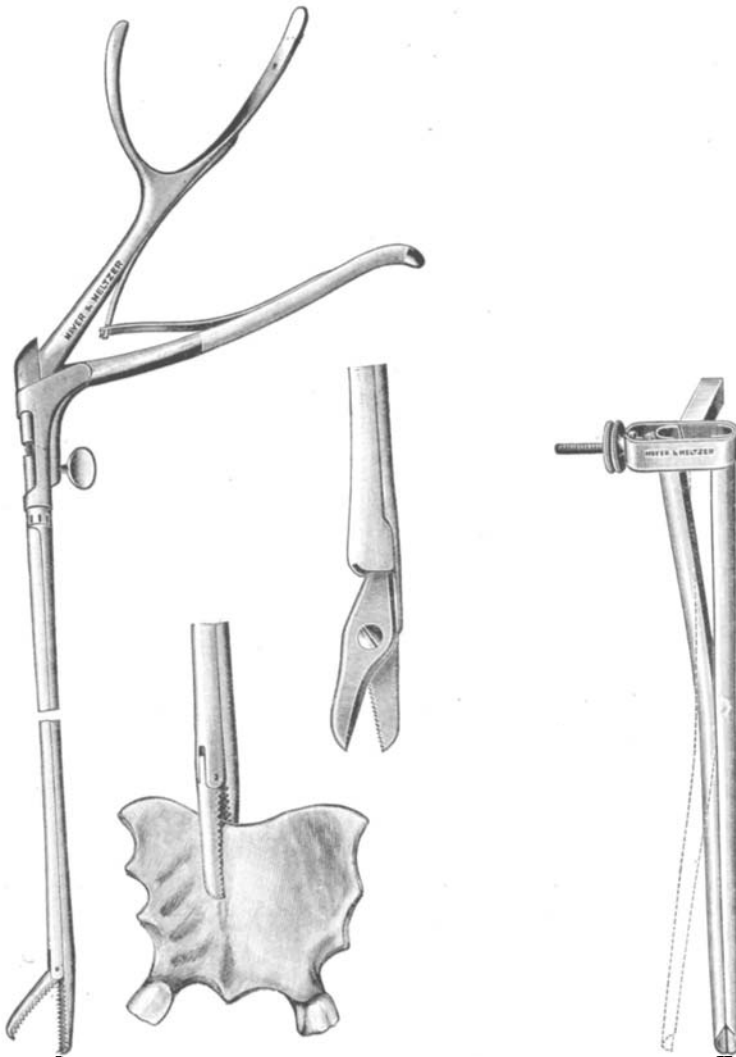
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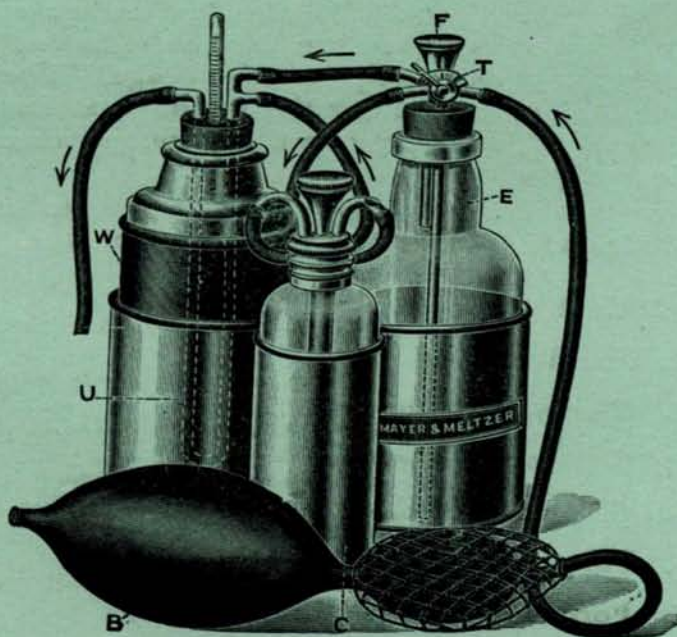
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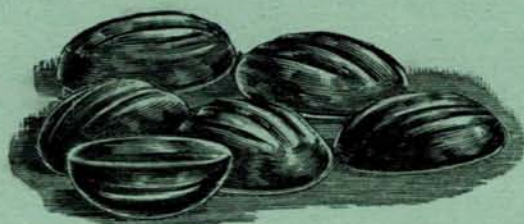
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