

FURTHER EVIDENCE AS TO THE VALUE OF MODERN LABYRINTHINE TESTS AND OPERATIONS.

At the risk of wearying our readers with the matter with which our recent issues have been so replete, we must direct their attention to the interesting discussion in the Austrian Otological Society's meeting reported in the present number. The Viennese otologists are not usually consumed with mutual admiration, and their differences of opinion are often extremely marked and quite undisguised. It is therefore all the more interesting to study their discussion of cases illustrating the modern tests for labyrinthine disease which have evolved in their midst, and it is pleasing to see how closely their observations and opinions are in harmony in regard to the value of these tests. Almost a new vocabulary has arisen, and the presence or absence of a "fistel-symptom" is noted without explanation, it being accepted that the occurrence of nystagmus on compression of the air in the meatus is symptomatic of the presence of a fistula in the wall of the labyrinth, or of something equivalent to it, such as a dislocation of the stapes.

In the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine Mr. Sydney Scott read a paper of considerable length on "Vertigo and Nystagmus in Relation to Labyrinthine Conditions," which received considerable applause and gave rise to a discussion which our readers will find worthy of their perusal. The subject is necessarily involved and full of interesting problems. Its clinical importance quite justifies the outlay of time and thought which its comprehension demands, and without which it is impossible to have clear ideas about it.

Professor Jansen, of Berlin, the enterprising pioneer in the surgery of the labyrinth, gives the result of fifteen years' experience in this department, in opening a discussion on the subject at the fourteenth annual meeting of the American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society. His views will be found in the portion of the reports of that meeting which we produce in the present issue of this Journal (p. 217). He offers a plea for individualisation in the choice of the method of approaching and opening the labyrinth as against the routine adoption of Neumann's method, which has found so much favour, especially in Vienna.
