

DEMONSTRATION BY PROFESSOR POLITZER.

PROFESSOR POLITZER, of Vienna, who is at present on a visit to London, gave on Monday, April 4th, a demonstration of anatomical and pathological preparations and instruments at the house of Sir W. Dalby to a numerous attended gathering, including most of the representative names associated with aural practice in London. The preparations and remarks of Professor Politzer were of a most interesting character, especially in reference to affections of the middle ear occurring as complications of influenza.

A series of normal preparations to illustrate the chief variations in structure of the mastoid process were first shown, and in the next place some specimens of the same part exhibiting the effects of suppuration in the course of the disease. Professor Politzer described mastoid abscess in these cases as occurring almost always in the terminal cells immediately under the surface of the bone, and as not in communication with the antrum. He believes that the morbid process is much more destructive than in idiopathic middle ear inflammation, and more likely to be attended with grave consequences, so that he always opens the mastoid process if no improvement occurs after three or four days' treatment by antiseptic irrigation, and, as he states, with very good results.

Many beautiful preparations of the different aural structures in the normal condition were shown; some new preparations of the membranous labyrinth in particular being greatly admired, namely, a series in which the membranous semicircular canals and utriculus were seen in their normal relations, and other preparations of the entire membranous labyrinth. Sections of decalcified preparations showing the position of the stapes, the utriculus, sacculus, ampulla, cochlea, and the ramifications of the auditory nerve were also exhibited, as well as some showing the relations of the "attic" in normal and in pathological conditions. Among other interesting preparations were some instructive sections through the round and oval windows, making clear the pathological changes taking place in certain cases around the stapes and the membrane of the fenestra rotunda.

Reference must be made to some new aural instruments introduced and exhibited by Professor Politzer on this occasion. Of these, the more notable were: 1. Elastic cannulas for syringing out the attic and Prussak's space in cases of obstinate localised suppuration of this region of the tympanum. 2. A vulcanite insufflator for blowing powders into the epytympanic cavity. 3. Various chisels for opening the mastoid process. According to Professor Politzer, the drill is never employed in Vienna for this purpose. 4. An instrument for removing portions of the outer wall of the attic in cases of chronic suppuration with cholesteatoma, granulations, or caries of this part, where treatment by irrigation and the application of solutions is ineffectual.

In conclusion, Professor Politzer referred to the method introduced by him for demonstrating the normal dilatation of the mouth of the Eustachian tube during the act of swallowing. He showed that when the ends of the branches of the tuning fork C² (with 512 vibrations per second) are held in front of the nostrils of a person with normal hearing the sound becomes much louder when swallowing is performed. This appears to prove that the mouths of the tubes are dilated during the act of swallowing, and thus to set at rest a point which has been in dispute.

Professor Politzer proposes to utilise this fact in the diagnosis of Eustachian obstruction in middle ear affections, and in the estimation of improvement in the condition occurring in the course of treatment.

THE SANITARY STATE OF DUBLIN.

THE annual meeting of the Dublin Sanitary Association was held in the Royal Dublin Society's Theatre on Wednesday, March 31st. Mr. FREDERIC W. PIM, the President, took the chair.

The report stated that the new Dublin main drainage scheme, which contemplates intercepting all the sewage of Dublin by two sewers laid along the quays (the northern crossing the river to join the southern in the neighbourhood of Butt Bridge by a siphon) and conveying it to White Bank,

beyond the Pigeonhouse Fort, has been carefully considered by the Council. If the scheme be carried out, the solid matter will be precipitated in tanks at White Bank, conveyed out in barges into deep water, and there discharged; while the clarified effluent will be allowed to find its way into the river at a point near where the Rathmines and Pembroke sewage is at present discharged. Having come to the conclusion that the scheme would tend greatly to improve, if not wholly to purify, the River Liffey, and to benefit the sanitary condition of the city, the Council supported the promoters of the scheme at the Local Government Board inquiry, held on February 19th, 1892. The Council have also had under their consideration the various schemes which have been proposed for the drainage of the townships adjoining the city of Dublin. They regard the pollution of the foreshores of the bay, caused by the continued discharge of sewage matter into the sea at several points between Dublin and Kingstown, as a matter fraught with danger to the large sea-board population of the suburbs, and they are of opinion that the townships should, in their own interests, come to some agreement between themselves for the removal of a nuisance which is becoming daily more formidable and more injurious to the public health. The report having dealt fully with the efforts of the Sanitary Protection Department, including the inquiry into the prevalence of typhoid fever and the investigations as to the purity of the Vartry water, states that several complaints of nuisances in different parts of the city were made to the Association by private individuals. These were forwarded to the Public Health Committee, but, as a rule, not until they had been investigated by some member of the Council. The condition of some parts of the city is anything but what it should be, and many of the lanes and tenement houses in crowded parts of the city are so bad that the Council find it hard to believe that they are ever properly inspected. In many places also the sanitary accommodation is totally inadequate to the needs of the population.

The PRESIDENT then delivered an address, in the course of which he said: After all the years in which the Sanitary Association had been persistently urging the matter upon the attention of the Corporation and the public, the enormous evil of the existence of a multitude of proprietary slaughter houses in the city still remained. The Corporation had now all necessary legal powers, and they ought to be put in force. The evil state of the tenement dwellings of Dublin had been often and clearly exposed. Notwithstanding all that has been done, in spite of a better system of inspection and regulation—in spite of all the clearances that have been made, and the number of new dwellings that had been built by the Corporation and the Artisans' Dwellings Company—the evil still remained. Altogether it was safe to say that they were within the mark in assuming that there were still in Dublin 7,000 dwellings, with a population of 140,000 persons, such as no decent working man, with a proper sense of self-respect and a due regard for health, would willingly bring up his family in. The Artisans' Dwellings Company had now within the city 1,562 dwellings, occupied by more than 7,000 persons. The Corporation new dwellings were occupied by about 850 more. Taking into account the work of Lord Iveagh's trustees, and what had been done by some large employers of labour in providing improved dwellings for their workpeople, it was probable that some 12,000 to 15,000 persons had been housed in single dwellings, furnished with the requirements for healthful lives and decent surroundings. How long it would take to rehouse the remainder was a problem which remained and would have to be faced.

THE OPIUM QUESTION.

THIS great question has recently been reopened by a vigorous campaign, in aid of which a document has been widely circulated, alleging the most widespread and fearful evils as the result of the use of opium in India and China, and on the basis of that document a very extensive series of medical signatures was obtained to a memorial for the total prohibition of the growth of opium in India. With the fiscal and national aspects of the question—involving the habits of untold millions of people and a crop of £13,000,000 sterling a year—we have nothing to do; but it is obvious enough—from the very important and interesting discussion at the Society of Arts, on March 24th