

DEAFNESS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649450268

Deafness by H. Campbell

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H. CAMPBELL

DEAFNESS

DEAFNESS ;

ITS VARIOUS CAUSES, AND THEIR SUCCESSFUL
REMOVAL BY ELECTROLYSIS, &c.

BY

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Royal College of Surgeons of England, &c., &c.*

"In order that diseases of the ear may receive the attention their importance demands, aural medicine and surgery must endeavour to elevate itself, in a scientific and ethical point of view."—ANTON VON TRÜTZSCH.

London :

LONGMAN, GREEN, READER, & DYER,
PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON.

1872.

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UNWIN BROTHERS, PRINTERS.

R297

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1872



PREFACE.

THE treatment of Deafness and other diseases of the ear by electricity, either alone or in combination with the usual means employed by aural surgeons, has occupied my time and attention for some years past.

Looking on Deafness as the opprobrium of the profession, I hoped, by travelling out of the ordinary routine, and employing so subtle and powerful, and yet so manageable and delicate an agent, to achieve, if not entire success, such a measure of improvement as had not yet been reached in the ordinary way of practice.

I was to a certain extent led to anticipate considerable benefit to my patients from the employment of electricity, as I had long been familiar with its singular and powerful influence in removing morbid growths and deposits in almost every structure of the body; and I naturally hoped it would exercise the same alterative and absorbent influence on those morbid deposits and thickenings

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in the Ear on which 90 per cent. of all cases of Deafness depend. That these anticipations have been fully realised, the report of cases to be found in the following pages will fairly prove; and the success which has attended my labours, as well as the knowledge of what is being done in the same direction on the Continent and in America, warrant me in believing that a very reliable and potent remedy in the treatment of deafness has been found.

For the scientific principles on which my views and treatment are based, I beg to refer the reader to page 28 of this volume, to the works and contributions to medical journals of Althaus,* Brenner,† Moos,‡ Erb,§ Hagen,|| Beard¶ and Rockwell, and to my own published papers on the subject.**

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38, QUEEN ANNE STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE.

* Medical Electricity. London. 1870.

† Untersuchungen und Beobachtungen, &c. Leipzig. 1869.

‡ Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology. Vol. I. No. 1. New York and Heidelberg.

§ Archives of Ophthalmology and Otology. Vol. I. No. 2. New York and Heidelberg.

|| Praktische Beiträge zur Ohrenheilkunde. Leipzig. 1866.

¶ Medical and Surgical Electricity. New York. 1871.

** Electro-Surgery. A clinical report of 24 cases of Deafness successfully treated by a new method, &c., &c.

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CHAPTER I.

THE MECHANISM OF HEARING—EXTERNAL AND MIDDLE EAR.

IN order the better to understand the following, it may be as well to inform the general and remind the professional reader that the hearing apparatus in man consists of two distinct mechanisms, the conducting and the perceptive.

The conducting commences at the external ear, the form of which and its inclination in relation to the head have a certain influence on the acuteness of hearing. From its lower part, the auditory canal begins; along this canal the vibrations of the air are conveyed to the membrane of the tympanum, which, stretched in an oblique direction across its inner extremity, closes it.

The inner side of the tympanic membrane or drum-head forms the outer boundary of the drum proper, or as it is usually called, the cavity of the tympanum; this is an irregular cavity of not greater capacity than the empty shell of a hazel nut. In it are contained the chain of little bones or ossicles which convey the vibrations from the drum to the auditory nerve, and the two minute muscles which control them; from it the Eustachian