

**ON THE ARTIFICIAL
TYMPANUM: A
NEW MODE OF
TREATING DEAFNESS**

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On the artificial tympanum: a new mode of treating deafness by James Yearsley

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JAMES YEARSLEY

**ON THE ARTIFICIAL
TYMPANUM: A
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TREATING DEAFNESS**

SECOND EDITION.

ON
THE ARTIFICIAL TYMPANUM:

A NEW MODE OF

TREATING DEAFNESS,

WHEN ATTENDED BY PARTIAL OR ENTIRE LOSS
OF THE MEMBRANA TYMPANI,

ASSOCIATED OR NOT WITH DISCHARGE FROM THE EAR.

BY

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AUTHOR OF "A TREATISE ON THROAT AFFECTIONS, MORE ESPECIALLY THE ENLARGED
TONSIL AND ELONGATED UVULA;"

INVENTOR OF THE ARTIFICIAL TYMPANUM, ETC.



LONDON:

JOHN CHURCHILL, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1862.

~~150. C. 43.~~



M'GOWAN AND DANKS, GREAT WINDMILL STREET, RAYMARLEY.

PREFACE.

By prefixing the dates at which my various papers on the Artificial Tympanum have appeared, and the media selected for their publication, the following pages may be said to afford a chronological history of its progress, from its discovery, or rather the first publicity given to it, to the present time.

When circumstances transpired which appeared to indicate that the time had arrived at which it was incumbent on me to promulgate an important medical fact, that for several years I had repeatedly verified in my practice, I considered it to be my first duty to make it known to the Profession of which I am a member; and with this view, I selected a medium through which I believed it would attain great pro-

feesional publicity—the 'LANCET.' From that publication the following pages are reprinted, with the addition of a Paper I had the honour of reading before the British Medical Association, which met at Edinburgh in 1858, showing that the new mode of treatment advocated, had a more extended range than was at first supposed or indicated, and inculcating the opinion that no case of deafness should be deemed irremediable until the cotton test had been applied.

Although so many years have elapsed since I first made known my discovery, and notwithstanding the publicity* given to it by every existing medical journal throughout the civilised world, copied also as

* The time necessary to make generally known a medical discovery, has been well exemplified in the history of vaccination. But that any well-attested fact, which may apply to sufferers throughout the world, should not at once obtain currency in the ranks of the Profession, who are supposed, and who ought to be regular readers of their own special periodical literature, is as astounding as it is discreditable; yet such is the case in reference to the artificial tympanum. Within the last twelve months, consultation letters have reached me from two surgeons, both many years in practice, giving circumstantial histories of their own cases, clearly showing that rupture of the membrana tympani had occurred, neither of whom evidently had heard, or read of the treatment of such cases which I had so long practised, and which had been so fully discussed and lauded in the medical journals of the day. Both of these gentlemen are now using my remedy *with uniform success.*

it was into every other channel of information, it is lamentable to think that thousands and thousands of persons are still living, sufferers from one of the greatest calamities incidental to human existence, whose malady is easily and permanently amenable to this very safe and simple treatment.

How is this state of things to be amended? 1st, by diffusing more widely amongst the community at large, the knowledge of the fact; and, 2ndly, by instructing, as far as words can instruct, the professional adviser, as to the rules to be observed in making a trial of the remedy. The latter is attempted in the course of the following pages, the former is enjoined on all who do me the honour of reading them; for it is desirable that everyone, who in ordinary phraseology may be said to have lost the drum of the ear, should at least be made aware that art can supply them with the means of relieving their sad affliction.

To the present edition also has been added a few remarks on some most injudicious and even dangerous deviations from my own method of treatment, chiefly as to the material to be used. From their failures, and from numberless experiments of my own, it is my *firm belief* that cotton-wool, moistened with water,

and warmed to the temperature of the body, will never be superseded. It has the advantages also of simplicity, cleanliness, and safety. Some further remarks upon this subject will be found at page 39 *et. seq.*

Many years have passed away since the following papers first appeared in the 'LANCET.' Nevertheless there is not a single remark I would wish to retract, whilst many points at first involved in mystery now admit of satisfactory explanation; for instance, the *modus operandi* of the remedy may be thus accounted for:—The loss of the membrana tympani deprives the ossicula or chain of bones of their natural support, and, consequently, they hang loose and flabby in the cavity of the tympanum; the cotton-wool is so adjusted as to restore to them the necessary support, and then the waves of sound break upon the cotton, through which the impulse is conveyed to the ossicula, and so onwards to the brain.

JAMES YEABESLEY.

London, 15 Savile row, W.,

Jan., 1862.

ON
A NEW MODE OF TREATING
DEAFNESS,

ETC.

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UP to the present time, no successful mode of treating perforations of the membrane of the drum of the ear, either as respects the restoration of the membrane, or the relief of the accompanying deafness, has been discovered. The only means resorted to for the latter purpose has been the removal of pus or mucus from the tympanal cavity by syringing, or rendering it free by passing air through the perforation by way of the Eustachian tube. Either of these proceedings will produce a temporary improvement of the hearing in cases where the tympanum suffers from obstruction, but in many others, when such a state does not obtain, they are of little, if of any, service. Another mode of treatment, but one directed to the renovation of the drum, is the employment of mercury, with a view to produce "a new creation of membrane."