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*As we approach the Millennium I thought it would be interesting to see what our forebears were writing about 100 years ago. The Journal of Laryngology, Rhinology and Otology was then published by Rebman Publishing Company, Limited, 11 Adam Street, Strand, London, W.C.—Editor*

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*The Thyroid Treatment of Middle-Ear Disease*

Before proceeding to detail my own cases, I would briefly refer to the published work of Vulpius, Brühl, Eitelberg, and Morpurgo, on the use of thyroidine in affections of the middle ear. The first of these investigators draws attention to the fact that Kinnicut and M. A. Starr, whilst employing thyroid extract in cases of myxœdema with which hardness of hearing was associated, observed that, with improvement of other symptoms, the hearing was also greatly improved. Vulpius further reported good results in hyperplastic middle-ear processes, especially when there existed limitation of ossicular mobility.

Brühl's paper appeared a few months later. He employed the drug in tabloids, and gives an account of his investigations upon eighteen patients between the ages of twenty and forty, all of whom were severe cases, and were under continuous treatment and observation. They appear to have been all cases of sclerosis, the duration of disease being from three to thirteen years. The method of treatment was as follows:—During the first week the patient took one tabloid daily, during the second week two, and during the third and fourth weeks three *per diem*. A pause of one to two weeks was then made, and the treatment started again. In none of the sixteen cases were any unpleasant symptoms manifested. Brühl used Burroughs & Wellcome's tabloids, but does not state their strength. I presume they were each equivalent to five grains by weight of healthy gland.

Of Brühl's sixteen cases eight were under treatment for six to eight weeks, and were subjectively and objectively improved. Of the remaining eight two ceased treatment, despite "improvement," in four the result was "satisfactory," in two "very good." The hearing was tested once a week by speech, acoumeter, and tuning fork. The improvement was with the first two tests, there being no apparent alteration in the tuning-fork results.

More recently Eitelberg has treated eight cases with thyroid. Block, in his criticism thereon, remarks: "From the given data it is difficult to say whether they were really cases of sclerosis. Though the results were meagre, the author advises continuation of the experiments."

Lastly Morpurgo has made trial of thyroid in fourteen cases of deafness, due in eight cases to adhesive processes, in six to sclerosis. All the cases had previously undergone other treatment without success. The dosage was, to start with, ninety centigrammes a day, and was reduced later to a third of that quantity. Headache occurred in two, and marked loss of flesh in four cases. Treatment terminated at the end of three weeks where no improvement had occurred. Nine cases showed no improvement, two had some diminution of tinnitus. In two individuals a marked gain in hearing was experienced.