

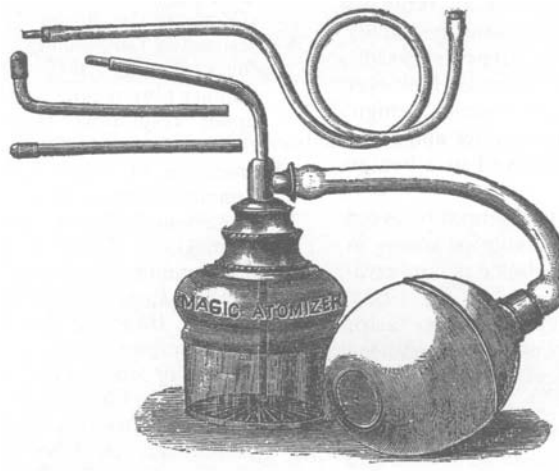
THE
JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY,
RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY.

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

A CAUTION IN THE USE OF LARYNGEAL SPRAYS

By DR. DUNDAS GRANT

A very neat and efficient spray has been for some time before the profession, in which the distal half of the spray tube is detachable by means of a simple plug joint, and thereby capable of being turned upwards, downwards, or to either side, according to the requirements of the case. The weak



point is naturally the plug, and a mishap arising from the unexpected dissolution of continuity at this point has led the writer to insist that the plug should be replaced by a screw. The accident which led to this was the swallowing of the tip by the patient during the process of spraying the larynx. Singularly little discomfort was produced, and so quickly did the tube disappear that it seemed hardly possible to believe what had happened. The object swallowed was a metal tube of the thickness of a goose quill, about two inches in length, and having its anterior extremity bent at nearly a right angle for a distance of about half an inch. On laryngoscopical examination no trace of it could be seen either in the larynx or trachea, and an attempt was made to verify its presence in the oesophagus by means of a sound, as also to fish for it by means of forceps. The result being negative, it was assumed that the foreign body had entered the stomach. In view of this possibility an emetic was dismissed from consideration for fear of laceration of the viscus, and the patient was ordered a diet suitable for covering the object in its passage through the alimentary canal. A few hours later the patient returned, stating that he felt uncomfortable sensations at the epigastrium, and it was decided to submit him to an examination by means of the Rontgen rays.

While the preparations for this were in progress the patient was describing in a somewhat animated fashion the discomfort which he experienced, notably the increase of pain at the epigastrium when he bent forward. In his anxiety to demonstrate this he bent his body to a considerable extent, and while he was doing this the spray tube was forcibly expelled from his mouth on to the floor. Apparently it had not got beyond the cardiac orifice.

Mr. Rogers, of Oxford Street, purveyor of the spray in question, at once stopped the sale of those in which the plug joint was present, and proceeded to have others constructed in which safety was absolutely ensured by the use of a screw, without any sacrifice of the delicacy of the instrument, of which an engraving is appended.