

In Reply
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UNITED STATES SUBMARINE BASE,
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT.

Serial:

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MEMORANDUM TO CAPTAIN SHILLING:

Subject: Otological Examination.

Doctors D. D. Dickson and Bateman discussed the very important and universally neglected otological examination.

The standardization of the simple hearing tests and the grading of pathological findings as I, II, III, IV according to qualifications for various types of duty should be adopted.

In place of Dickson & Bateman's extra orderly to occlude the ear not tested, a masker of a mixture of tones at 60 decibell should be substituted to cover the ear not being tested. The candidate himself can be trusted to do this, for if the masker is improperly applied to the ear, the deafness if present is still apparent, and the patient will be sent for an audiogram or fork tests by the otologist.

The use of standard selected words and presentation is important. It is well known that 3 and 8 are frequently reversed by individuals with some high tone deafness, 5 and 6 are other words reversed, etc.

The ability to voluntarily inflate the middle ear is of questionable value but should be checked as it often reveals other pathological conditions and is instructive in teaching individuals to inflate the ears.

Less pathological conditions would be overlooked in the routine examination if an otoscope were used similar to the Welch Allyn diagnostic head with a large lense and a closed speculum that allows for easy application of positive and negative external pressure over drum and watching drum action through speculum.

The addition of Radium treatment of adenoids about the eustachian tube enables more candidates to pass and remain in active air or submarine service.

A similar program should be adopted by the U. S. Navy. On June 14th at the U. S. Submarine Base, New London, Captain Shilling is undertaking a study of this problem.

H. I. HAINES.