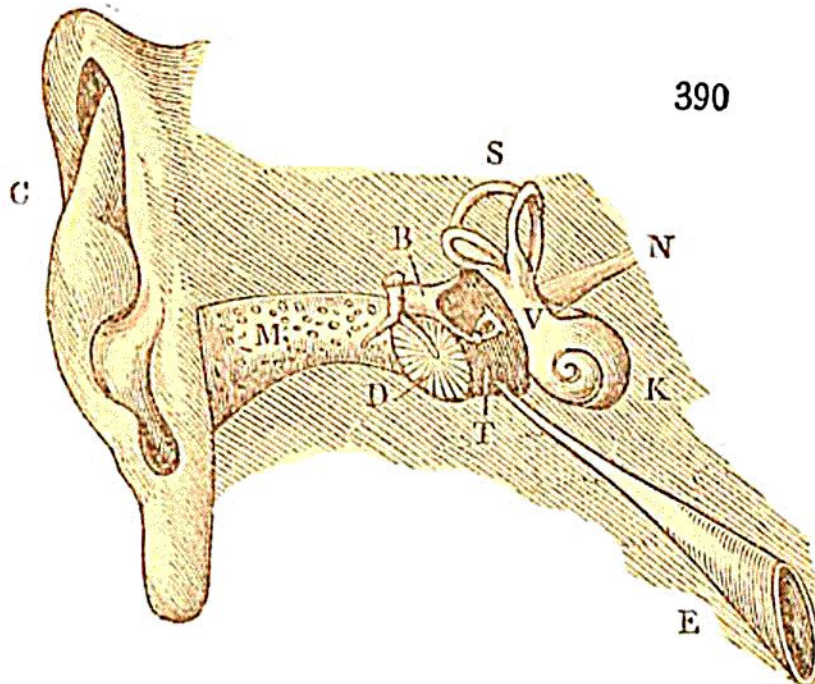


rious elevations and depressions, which form a series of parabolic curves, apparently for the purpose of collecting the sonorous undulations of the air, and of directing them into a funnel-shaped canal (M,) termed the *meatus auditorius*;



which leads to the internal ear. This canal is composed partly of cartilage, and partly of bone; and the integument lining it is furnished with numerous small glands, which supply a thick oily fluid, of an acrid quality, apparently designed to prevent the intrusion of insects: the passage is also guarded by hairs, which appear intended for a similar purpose.

The meatus is closed at the bottom by a membrane (D,) which is stretched across it like the skin of a drum, and has been termed, from this resemblance, the *membrane of the tympanum*, or the *ear-drum*.\* It performs, indeed, an office corresponding to its name; for the sonorous undulations of the air, which have been collected, and directed inwards by the grooves of the concha, strike upon the ear-drum, and throw it into a similar state of vibration. The ear-drum is

\* The inner surface of the ear-drum is shown in this figure, the cavity of the tympanum, which is behind it, being laid open.