

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Section of Laryngology. The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 4th, at 5 o'clock. The meeting will be a clinical one.

President : C. A. Scott Ridout, M.S., Clarendon Road, Southsea.

Hon. Secretaries : M. L. Formby, F.R.C.S., 3 Queen Anne Street, W.1 ; J. C. Hogg, F.R.C.S., 106 Harley Street, W.1.

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Section of Otology. The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 4th, at 10.30 a.m.

President : E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S., 9 Weymouth Street, W.1.

Hon. Secretaries : C. Hamblen Thomas, F.R.C.S., 26 Harley Street, W.1. ; C. S. Hallpike, F.R.C.S., Ferens Institute, Middlesex Hospital.

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REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SALSOMAGGIORE

AN International Conference was held at Salsomaggiore near Parma, Northern Italy, from May 29th to June 1st.

Salsomaggiore is a large and important spa, the waters of which contain iodine and bromine. There are also sulphur springs in the neighbourhood and this district contains a number of large establishments for the therapeutic use of these waters.

The conference was under the presidency of Professor Citelli of Catania and was arranged by a Committee which was presided over by Professor Lasagna of Parma. Of Italian laryngologists there were present at the meetings Calamida Caliceti, Torrigiana, Torrini, Casutelli, Carlo Monti, Pallestrini, Giorgio Ferreri, Di Lauro, Massione, Alagna D'Avino and many others, nearly 300 in all.

The following foreign guests were present, Von Eicken of Berlin, Voss of Frankfort, Kelemen of Budapest, Belian of Bucarest, Bélinoff of Sofia, Serçer of Zagreb and Matic of Novi Sadin Jugoslavia. Great Britain was represented by Sir StClair Thomson and Ormerod.

The conference was held under the patronage of the Minister of Finance and was opened by Professor Pende, Professor of Pathology at Rome on behalf of the Minister. The opening ceremony was attended by all the chief government officials of the district and was followed by a general discussion, asked for by the Government, on the immediate and distant effects of tonsillectomy. After considerable discussion it was decided to report that total tonsillectomy was indicated in every case of septic infection of the tonsil, but that in cases of recurring catarrhal parenchymatous tonsillitis each case should be decided on its own merits.

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Total tonsillectomy was of great value as a curative and as a preventative measure, and it never resulted in any harmful effects on growth—either physical or psychical—or on the working of the endocrine system.

During the following three days papers were read by Italian and foreign members of the Congress.

Professor Von Eicken gave a demonstration of a surprisingly large number of cases of elongated styloid process with X-ray photographs. He described the signs and symptoms and the relation of the process to tonsillectomy.

Professor Voss read a paper on his personal experiences of thirteen cases of suppuration in the petrous pyramid. He gave a very complete résumé of the diagnostic points and of the factors controlling prognosis. He described at length the operative procedures and the complications which were likely to be met.

Professor Citelli described his method of opening the sphenoidal sinus or of reaching the pituitary fossa. It consists of resecting the posterior portion of the septum, just enough to give access and not carrying out a complete resection of the septum as is done by Hirsch.

Professor Kelemen read a paper on the atrophic condition of the mucous membrane of the upper respiratory passages in cases of bone tuberculosis. The atrophic condition usually follows a hypertrophic rhino-pharyngitis and is itself very prone to further infection by highly virulent organisms and not infrequently by tubercle bacilli. The atrophic condition in the nose is rarely complicated by ozæna.

Professor Calamida described the various manifestations of allergic disease in the ear, nose and throat and Professor Sercer dealt with the nasal reflexes in relation to the lungs. The reflexes from the nose may affect the respiratory exchanges by variation in the movement of the chest wall and diaphragm and the bronchial musculature. The respiratory excursions are greater during nasal than during buccal respiration.

Professor Torrini gave a summary of the pathology of ozæna, a disease which is much commoner in the Balkans and in Italy and which has been made a particular study by Torrini for many years. He considers the real cause to be a vitamine insufficiency complicated by a bacterial infection.

Professor Bélinoff showed a film which illustrated his own great dexterity in performing œsophagoscopy and which included the extraction of a coin and a button from the gullet of two young children, without anæsthetic.

Sir StClair Thomson described the gradual steps through which the diagnosis and treatment of cancer of the larynx have passed in the last hundred years. He was able to give personal appreciation

General Notes

of the work of the great surgeons at the close of the last century and the beginning of the present one who put the surgery of the larynx on such a sound footing.

Professor Lemaitre read a paper on the precancerous state in the throat. He divided it into three categories—inflammatory, irritative and embryonal. The paper was illustrated by a series of very remarkable microphotographs of precancerous conditions.

Ormerod explained the method of treating cancer of the larynx and pharynx by the combined X-rays and radium bomb as used at the Westminster Hospital and showed a film and slides.

Professor Lasagna gave a very complete demonstration of the electrical methods of testing hearing and showed some of the very excellent electro-acoustic apparatus manufactured at Milan.

Professor Tullio brought the scientific part of the meeting to a close by a demonstration of his methods of opening the labyrinth and of experimenting on the reaction of the internal ear to sound, to variations in pressure in the canals and other phenomena.

The members of the Congress were treated with the most abounding hospitality, which included a special performance of "Il Trovatore" at the Opera House at Parma, a visit to Castel 'Arquato, much of which was built in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, an afternoon in Parma where the Teatro Farnese, the oldest and largest theatre in the world was seen. The various galleries and churches in Parma, and particularly the magnificent paintings by Correggio were also seen and enjoyed. Hospitality in the form of banquets was very lavish, the conference assuming the nature of a procession from one wonderful meal to another.

The kindness and friendliness of the Italian hosts was unlimited and the organization of the conference in the capable hands of the Secretary-General, Professor Varanini was faultless.

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CONGRÈS FRANÇAIS D'OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGIE.

This Congress will be held in Paris at the Faculté de Médecine, under the presidency of Dr. Le Mée, from the 17th to 20th of October. All particulars can be obtained from M. Raimond, 17 Rue de Buci, Paris.

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

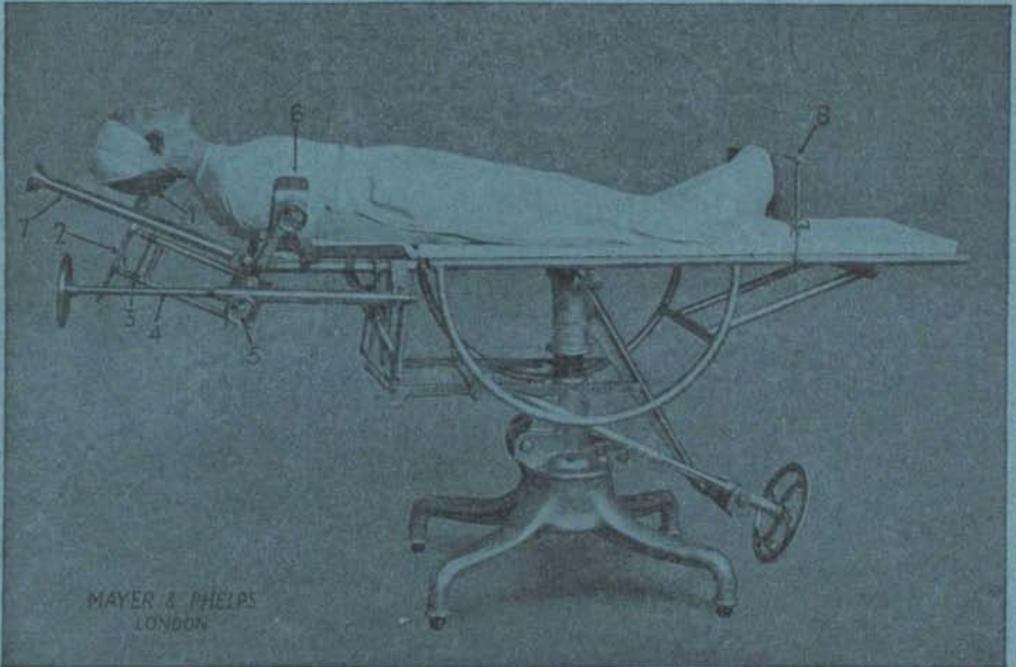
SEMON LECTURE.

This Annual Lecture will be delivered on Thursday, November 3rd, at 5 p.m., at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street. The Lecturer, Mr. W. M. Mollison, has chosen as his subject, "Laryngology's debt to Research."

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