

THE
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THE LATE PROFESSOR LUCAE.

ON March 17 Professor Lucae passed away, not many months after his friend and fellow-worker, Professor Schwartz. He was the *doyen* of German otologists, and had taken a very active part in the foundation and organisation of various otological associations. His contributions to the literature of otology were most numerous, and in his work on "Chronic Progressive Deafness," published in 1907, of which we gave a somewhat exhaustive review in the JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY, much of his extended teaching and study was concisely reproduced. He was of a singularly amiable disposition, happy in his family relations and in his friends, endowed with a love of all that is beautiful in nature as well as in the musical and pictorial arts. He had the courage of his opinions, and his statement of them always commanded respectful and interested attention. Though delicate in health he had an apparently inexhaustible power of work, and went through several campaigns in his capacity as military surgeon. During his "wander years" he took part in Professor Politzer's first course of otology in Vienna, and studied in London under Toynbee. He spoke English, but his capacity for speaking it was eclipsed by his knowledge of our music and poetry, and particularly his fondness for the music and scenery of Scotland.

Professor Heine, in his sympathetic obituary notice of him in the latest issue of the *Archiv für Ohrenheilkunde*, concludes with

the following words: "His life was full of effort and work! Inexhaustible industry and rare energy distinguished it. A truly good man has been taken from us in the person of Lucae. His memory will, however, always survive in the history of otology as one of the first masters, and it will never fade in the hearts of his pupils and friends."

He was born on August 24, 1835.

D. G.

**IMPROVED TECHNIQUE OF THE THIERSCH GRAFT
FOLLOWING THE RADICAL MASTOID OPERATION:
PRELIMINARY REPORT.**

BY CULLEN F. WELTY, M.D.,
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IN the technique of the Thiersch graft following the radical mastoid operation, it is absolutely essential that that operation be done in a very thorough manner. Every individual cell is destroyed until hard bone is encountered, or the dura, sinus, or nerve uncovered. This final destruction of cancellous bone is best accomplished with a hand burr. It can be done with a burr driven with electricity, but I prefer the electric burr for the bone of greater density. It is very essential that all the uneven surfaces be made perfectly smooth. The outer part of the bony meatus must be removed sufficiently to be on a horizontal plane with the floor of the tympanic cavity. The posterior bony wall must be cut down to the floor of the newly made bony meatus. By this procedure more room is gained, and the pocket formed by the tympanic cavity is eliminated.

In the removal of the posterior bony meatus and facial spur, great care must be exercised not to injure the facial nerve. This is best overcome by chiselling the wall away with large chisels, and working parallel to the nerve, so that in the event of the nerve being uncovered it would not be cut. This particular method will enable the operator to remove more bone than any other, and with more safety to the facial. The mucous membrane of the tympanic cavity must be entirely removed. I mean that after a very thorough inspection none can be detected. In doing so it will be necessary in most cases to use a hæmostatic agent of some kind, such as hot saline solution, peroxide of hydrogen, or adrenalin. Most careful attention must be directed to the Eustachian tube in