

General Notes

from nerve deafness. When the war broke out she was engaged playing the violin in Moscow. She could not get out of the country and had been all through the horrors of the Bolshevist Revolution, being only repatriated by the British Government last year. About a year ago she began to notice that she couldn't hear in general conversation, nor on the telephone. About the same time she was told she was playing out of tune, a thing she had never done before. When she got to this country, she found the inability to hear when she was out of tune was a fatal bar to her getting any engagement. She was sent to me for treatment with the Zund-Burguet Electrophoneide.

When she came she could hear, on the right side, the voice at 10 feet and a whisper at 1 foot. On the left side she could hear the voice at 8 feet and a whisper at 1 inch. After a few treatments she could hear the conversational voice 23 feet with the back turned and a whisper at 2 feet and the sense of pitch came back so that she no longer played out of tune.

These three cases are especially interesting as they show that the sense of pitch is something apart from the sense of hearing, as the first case was not deaf, the second had chronic otitis media and the third nerve deafness.

GEORGE C. CATHCART.

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THE SEMON LECTURE.

ON 12th July, in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, The Semon Lecture for 1922 upon "The Development of Trans-Atlantic Rhinology" was delivered by Professor H. S. Birkett, C.B., Dean of the Medical Faculty, McGill University, Montreal. Mr H. J. Waring, F.R.C.S., the Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, occupied the Chair, and introduced the lecturer to an audience which numbered about seventy persons. In his most interesting and instructive address, Dr Birkett sketched not only the rise and progress of laryngology in the Western Hemisphere, duly emphasising the part played by the pioneers and leaders in the specialty in the United States, while modestly ignoring his own share in placing the subject upon an assured and recognised basis, but he related also what had been done in Canada and the United States in developing the education of the student of medicine and the specialist in this important branch. The vote of thanks to the lecturer was moved and seconded in felicitous terms by Sir James Dundas-Grant, K.B.E., and Sir St Clair Thomson.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, which was held in Glasgow from the 25th to 29th July, the Sections of Otology and Laryngology attracted large attendances. We hope to give a short account of the Proceedings in our next number.

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THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF OTOTOLOGY AND LARYNGOLOGY.

In order to supplement the somewhat short programme provided by the Single Day Sessions of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology at the Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association in Glasgow, the Scottish Society of Otology and Laryngology decided to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, 28th July. The arrangements, which were placed in the hands of the Glasgow members, who acted also as hosts, left nothing to be desired, and Dr W. S. Syme and his colleagues are to be congratulated not only upon the success of the scientific meeting, but also upon the very excellent provision made for the social entertainment of their guests.

On the evening of Thursday, 27th July, the members of the Society and the visitors from south of the Tweed and elsewhere enjoyed the hospitality of Dr and Mrs A. Brown Kelly, in their home at 26 Blythswood Square. On the following morning the Society met in the Ear and Throat Department of the Western Infirmary, where a number of interesting cases were shown by the President (Dr D. J. Connal), Drs A. Brown Kelly, W. S. Syme, John W. Leitch, and Dr W. C. Macartney. Prior to a discussion upon the same, Mr George Wilkinson, on the invitation of the President, demonstrated his model of the Cochlea and the Mechanism of the Sympathetic Resonance of Hearing, and a short paper was read by Dr Gavin Young upon "The Relations of the Optic and Vidian Nerves to the Sphenoidal Sinus."

Amongst those who took part in the Meeting other than the ordinary members of the Society were Professor Holger Mygind (Copenhagen), and Dr H. H. Forbes (New York), Sir James Dundas-Grant, Sir William Milligan, Sir St Clair Thomson, Dr P. M'Bride, Dr Dan M'Kenzie, Mr W. G. Howarth, Mr Lionel Colledge, Mr F. J. Cleminson, Dr Andrew Wylie, and Mr F. F. Muecke; Dr D. R. Paterson and Dr Jones (Cardiff), Mr A. J. Hutchison (Brighton), and Mr A. J. Wright (Bristol).

In the afternoon, members of the Society and their guests, accompanied by their wives, proceeded by train to Callander and thence by coach to Loch Katrine, where an hour was spent on the lake which,

"In all her length far winding lay,
With promontory, creek and bay
And islands that, empurpled bright
Floated amid the livelier light."

Tea was afterwards served at the Trossachs Hotel, where the interesting ceremony of electing Honorary Members took place, under conditions and in an environment which enhanced the Society's Scottish welcome to her most recent recruits.

A. L. T.

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Sir James Dundas-Grant, K.B.E., Sir William Milligan, Sir St Clair Thomson, Dr Dan M'Kenzie, and Professor Holger Mygind (Copenhagen) have been elected Honorary Members of the Scottish Society of Otology and Laryngology.

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SOME IMPRESSIONS THAT REMAIN, PARIS, JULY 1922.

On the left bank of the Seine, in the angle formed by the intersection of the Boulevards Saint Germain and Saint Michel, stands the École de

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Médecine, one of a block of buildings which constitutes the School of Medicine of the University of Paris. Here, in the oldest part of the city, where through the centuries there had been gradually built up the Faculties of Theology, Arts, Science, and Medicine, the tenth International Otological Congress opened its sessions on the morning of Wednesday, 19th July. It was fitting that the modern exponents of two of the youngest branches of Medicine and Surgery should congregate in an environment so closely interwoven with the life and work of some of the greatest exponents of science and of the practice of physic in France, where Buffon and Cuvier, naturalists, Lavoisier, the chemist, Bichat and Broca, anatomists, Claude Bernard, the physiologist, Ambroisè Paré, the surgeon, and Laënnec, the physician, established their world-wide reputation.

In the large amphitheatre attached to the School, M. Paul Strauss, the Minister of Health and the Rector of the University, extended to the members a cordial welcome to Paris, and after Professor Urban Pritchard, President of the Congress in London in 1909—whose presence on this occasion greatly gratified his *confrères*—had addressed the assembly, the scientific proceedings were commenced under the presidency of Professor Pierre Sebileau.

A very full programme, containing between 120 and 130 papers and several *rappports* of more than ordinary interest, had been provided by the indefatigable Secretary, Dr A. Hautant and the Committee of Organisation. It was evident that the President would require to enforce his authority by strictly limiting the period assigned to each speaker, if the schedule was to be carried through "according to plan." All will agree that Professor Sebileau discharged this unenviable task without fear or favour. We listened with admiration to the persuasive insistence of the tinkling note of his improvised bell—a tumbler and pen—as he bent to his will the erring speaker. We admired—perhaps too with a shade of envy—the courteous terms and the readiness of speech with which he invited, from time to time, one of his distinguished *confrères*, representatives of other countries, to share temporarily with him the duties of the Presidential office. While appreciating his devotion to duty, which was shared by his secretariat, we sympathised with him, as hour after hour he conducted the business of the sessions in an atmosphere which was rarely conducive to mental alertness, while the ordinary "man in the street" was free to come and go as the spirit moved him and to recuperate himself in the sunny courtyard or in a neighbouring café.

Notwithstanding the many attractions which Paris offers always to her visitors, and in spite of the brilliance of the summer days, the attendance at the various séances was well maintained. We are unable to chronicle any specially noteworthy scientific discovery. When the papers are published, however, and it becomes possible to study them at leisure, a better estimate will be arrived at as to the true value of the many contributions laid before the Congress. The tentative fusion of laryngology with the sister branch on this occasion, regarding the wisdom of which differences of opinion will certainly arise, produced a series of interesting *rappports* and a number of papers upon the "Treatment of Cancer of the Larynx." This furnished the Congress with what we might term its sole dramatic incident. It was provided by Dr Tapia of Madrid, the exponent of complete extirpation of

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the larynx, when he brought on to the platform a number of patients from whom the whole organ had been removed, and when each, in turn, addressed the audience in a few distinctly audible sentences by the aid of the artificial apparatus with which they had been supplied. He was followed by Sir St Clair Thomson, who, in a similar manner, demonstrated the success of laryngo-fissure in the person of a British admiral, one of whose vocal cords he had removed five and a half years previously.

If we might venture to offer a criticism of the scientific programme of the Congress, we do so in no carping spirit, but rather with the object of safeguarding the success of future similar congresses. The large number of papers which had been accepted, on this occasion, tended to defeat one of the objects of such an international gathering, in that, from insufficient time, a full discussion both of the papers and of the *rappports* was of necessity rendered impossible. Many members would have liked to have expressed their views on more than one of the subjects submitted, had a fuller opportunity offered itself for them to do so. Might we suggest to future Committees of Organisation that certain regulations should be drawn up as a guide in the preparation of papers, indicating the lines which such might follow, and unless they conformed strictly to these they would not be accepted. The number of communications actually presented at the sessions should be definitely limited, the choice being made by ballot, while those which passed the Committee, but were unsuccessful in the ballot, would nevertheless appear in the volume of the Transactions of Congress. We must admit that while such a proposal presents difficulties, they should not be unsurmountable. Further, the attendance of an interpreter to analyse briefly each paper when read would materially assist those taking part in the discussions.

Social entertainment, both official and private, was provided on a generous scale, and we are grateful to our French hosts and hostesses for their delightful hospitality. Not only did the State, in the person of M. Strauss, recognise the meeting of Congress, but the Municipal Council of Paris joined in the welcome to the members and their wives at a reception held in the historic Hôtel de Ville. Rebuilt in French Renaissance style after its destruction in 1871, it maintains its original form, but on larger and more ornamental lines, while the salons and galleries show some of the best examples of the tasteful decoration of modern French Art.

On Wednesday evening we were the guests of the President and Madame Sebilleau at a *soirée musicale* in the Hôtel Majestic, which, not so very long ago, had been the scene of the work and the recreation of the members of the British delegation to the Peace Conference. It was whispered, indeed, that the concert room, which, on that evening, echoed sweetly to the classic melodies of Chopin and Saint-Saëns, had reverberated each week to the din of the jazz band and to the merry-footing of the fox-trot and tango, when the hard-worked delegates and their staff sought distraction from their labours.

At the banquet in the Hôtel Continental, on Thursday evening, the French members of Congress proved ideal hosts in the entertainment of their confrères of the allied countries and their friends. With speech

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and dance, the festivities were prolonged into the small hours of the morning.

On Sunday, 23rd July, the official programme had arranged for an excursion to Verdun, the epic of France's greatest heroism and sacrifice. To some of us, however, the battlefields of the Somme made a strong appeal, so leaving Paris by the *Rapide* on Saturday evening we journeyed to Amiens. Under lowering clouds and through mist and rain, a fit setting for a landscape which had so recently been the scene of the horrors of war, we motored throughout Sunday by villages and woods, whose names had become as familiar to us as household words.

In the days to come, when the vivid impressions of Paris during Congress week, full of life and movement under a brilliant July sun, have faded from our minds, the picture, beneath a leaden sky, of the shell-pitted fields of Picardy, and the desolation of areas of rolling country, now happily showing signs of renewed vitality; the fragments of scarred and stunted trees raising a few leafless branches to the void; the tragedy of the villages of France and the countless rows of little wooden crosses, marking the last resting-place of many a known and unknown British soldier will long remain a haunting memory.

A. L. T.

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At the meeting of the Otological Congress in Paris, Dr Luc's numerous friends were delighted to see him restored to health and again in active work. As usual, his linguistic talents were much appreciated during the Congress.

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ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL OTOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

At the recent meeting in Paris, it was unanimously agreed that the next International Meeting of the Congress of Otology should be held in Copenhagen in 1925, under the Presidency of Professor Schmiegelow. It was left to the decision of the profession in Denmark to settle the most convenient time of the year, and the Danish Organising Committee were given the option of postponing the meeting of Congress if they thought fit.

It was arranged that Laryngology should be included in the next Congress.

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Mr Donald Watson, M.B. Edin., F.R.C.S. Eng., formerly Clinical Assistant and Clinical Tutor in the Ear and Throat Department, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has been appointed Honorary Aural Surgeon to the Eye, Ear, and Throat Infirmary, Bradford.

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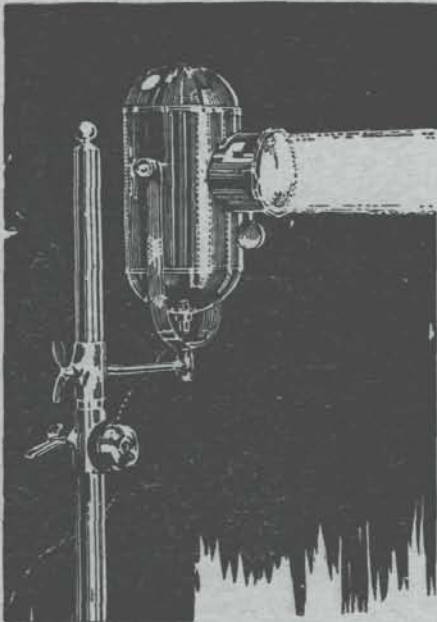
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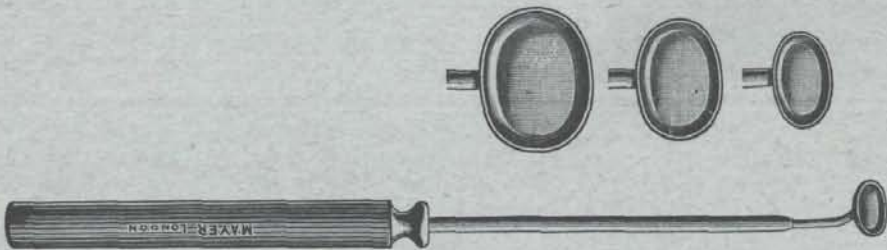


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