

## GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,  
1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

*Section of Laryngology.*—President, W. H. Kelson, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*, Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., 27 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, and Norman Patterson, 82 Portland Place, London, W. 1.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 5th February, at 5 P.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens, along with a short précis of notes, must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr Philip Franklin, at least twelve days before the date of the meeting.

*Section of Otology.*—President, G. J. Jenkins, F.R.C.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., 14 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1, and T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., 10 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1.

The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Saturday, 6th February, at 10.30 A.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens, along with a short précis of notes, must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., at least twelve days before the date of the meeting.

During the Session 1925-26 the Sections will meet on the following dates:—

*Section of Laryngology*, on Friday, 5th February, 5th March, 16th April, 7th May (*Annual*), and 4th June.

*Section of Otology*, on Saturday, 6th February, 6th March, 8th May (*Annual*), and 5th June.

The Sections of Laryngology and Ophthalmology will hold a combined discussion on "Inflammation of the Nasal Sinuses in its relation to Optic Neuritis," on Friday, 8th January 1926, at 8.30 P.M. Mr E. D. D. Davis, F.R.C.S. will open the Discussion.

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Section of Laryngology on Friday, 5th March, a Discussion will take place on "Atrophic Rhinitis," to be introduced by Dr A. Brown Kelly.

Among the further subjects selected for special discussion during the Session 1925-26, which are of special interest to members of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology, are the following:—

1. Focal Sepsis as a Factor in Disease; to be discussed by the whole Society at a date to be arranged.
2. The Diagnosis and Treatment of Intrathoracic New Growths; to be discussed by the Sections of Medicine, Electro-Therapeutics, Surgery, and Laryngology. The Discussion will take place on Tuesday, 23rd February, at 5.30 P.M., and will be introduced by Mr Somerville Hastings, F.R.C.S.

# General Notes

## ANNUAL "JOURNAL" DINNER.

The Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of Friday, 5th March. Shareholders, subscribers, contributors, and their friends are cordially invited to attend.

Full particulars regarding the arrangements will be published in the February number of the *Journal*.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, NOTTINGHAM, 1926.

The Ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held towards the end of July at Nottingham, under the presidency of Mr R. G. Hogarth, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to the Nottingham General Hospital.

Dr A. Brown Kelly, M.D., D.Sc., Glasgow, has been elected President of the Section of Laryngology and Otology.

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## SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF OTOTOLOGY AND LARYNGOLOGY.

At the Meeting of the Scottish Society of Otology and Laryngology held in Glasgow on Saturday, 21st November, Dr Douglas Guthrie was elected President for the ensuing year.

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## CHAIR OF OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGY.

The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toulouse have founded a new Chair in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. Dr E. Escat has been elected the first Professor.

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## THE THROAT HOSPITAL, GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON.

On Thursday, 26th November 1925, Mr Lionel de Rothschild performed the ceremony of re-opening the In-patient Department of the Golden Square Throat Hospital, which had been closed for two years during re-building and extension.

The increased accommodation has been obtained at a cost of £35,000 for re-building and equipment, and it will provide wards for 75 patients. The hospital has been re-modelled and two operating theatres have been built. The smaller theatre has a special ward attached to it, its purpose being to retain in it, for a short period, patients who have undergone minor operations. Thus the ward will supply a long-felt need in dealing with cases of this kind.

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## THE LATE SIR JOHN Y. W. MACALISTER.

We regret to record the death, in his seventieth year, of Sir John MacAlister, who until recently held the post of Secretary and Consulting Librarian to the Royal Society of Medicine, London. As a young man

## General Notes

he commenced the study of medicine in Edinburgh, but the state of his health at that period of his life compelled him to turn his attention to a less exacting occupation.

As a librarian he spent many years of great activity and usefulness, and in his earlier days he held official positions in the libraries of Liverpool and Leeds. He was made the first librarian of the new Gladstone Library, established in 1887 in the National Liberal Club. In 1889 he founded the *Library*, a magazine devoted to the work and literature of libraries, and it was largely through his efforts that the Library Bill of 1892 was promoted and became law.

On his appointment as Librarian to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, MacAlister renewed his earlier associations with the profession of medicine. While acting in this capacity he was successful in bringing about, what had frequently been attempted, the amalgamation of the various medical societies which had grown up in London. In 1907, a Supplemental Charter was granted to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, whereby its name was changed to "The Royal Society of Medicine," and its powers were enlarged. Under the new Constitution, Sections were formed, and the members of other societies were admitted, these agreeing to dissolve and amalgamate to its Fellowship, and to membership of the Sections.

The building at 1 Wimpole Street, and the great part which the Society now takes in the life of the medical profession in this country, is a worthy memorial of the man who laboured to accomplish it; *si monumentum requiris, circumspice*.

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### "THE POST-GRADUATE MEDICAL JOURNAL."

We are glad to have the opportunity of drawing the attention of our readers to the new *Post-Graduate Medical Journal*, the first number of which was published in October 1925. The *Journal* is the official organ of the Fellowship of Medicine, and its object is to keep the post-graduate student *en rapport* with the details of post-graduate teaching, not only in this country but elsewhere; and further, to supply a medium for the expression of his individual requirements and, if necessary, for the ventilation of his grievances. All communications of this nature will be cordially welcomed, and the correspondence column will be open to the discussion of what is germane to post-graduate education.

In addition to these functions, the *Journal* will devote its pages to the publication of a selection of the lectures which are delivered at the instance of the Fellowship of Medicine, supplementing these by specially contributed articles. Through this channel it will thus be possible to diffuse post-graduate instruction to those who, for various reasons, are unable to find the opportunity to attend in person. So far as possible the lectures reproduced in the *Journal* will be of an essentially practical character.

The *Journal*, which will be published monthly at an annual cost of six shillings, is deserving of the support of all branches of the profession, and through its influence we hope that the establishment of better co-ordinated post-graduate teaching may be attained.

# General Notes

## DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH IN THE NORMAL CHILD.

In a recent address to the Child Study Society, Mr Macleod Yearsley gave an account of his personal observations upon the development of speech in his son, and drew attention to the necessity of studying the normal development, the basis of all attempts to build up speech in the abnormal child. After giving an extremely interesting account of the progress of his son Louis, each step in advance being chronologically noted with great precision, Mr Yearsley thus sums up the period of speech development.

The first three years of life in this connection may perhaps be apportioned as follows, bearing in mind that there must be some degree of overlapping. The first year is spent in establishing methods of communication which are part animal and part primitive human. These consist in the acts of laughing, crying, and grunting, combined with facial expressions and gesticulation. These both precede and are concurrent with the development of speech, towards which the first steps are babbling, crowing, mimic reading, and echolalia, the unintelligent parrot repetition of adult speech. They form a scaffolding beneath which articulate speech is built up. The second year is devoted to acquiring and experimenting with a vocabulary, and the third year in perfecting and correcting.

The three stages appear to recapitulate, in brief, the development of speech as it has progressed in the history of the human race. The first year represents the long night of animal and pithecoïd ancestry; the second, the period of pleiocene or eolithic man, and the third, the period of rapid development from palæolithic man to the period of history. The author tentatively suggests that babbling and echolalia represent the earlier stages of proto-speech which made a deep mark on the organism and is, therefore, more easily reproduced automatically in the young. Comparison of the speed at which the boy Louis and some of his contemporaries acquired speech, with the progress of those children recorded by John Wyllie and Preyer, indicates a relative precocity in the modern child. Possibly an explanation of this may be found in the fact that parents to-day take a greater personal interest in their young children.

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### “THE JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY AND OTOTOLOGY.”

Five years have elapsed since *The Journal of Laryngology and Otology* was purchased from its previous owners and became the property of the profession. During this period those who have been responsible for the conduct of the *Journal*, both on its administrative and editorial side, have endeavoured to maintain its usefulness and to present to its readers a variety of instructive information calculated to increase its educational value.

Through the generous support which the *Journal* has received, during the past five years, from the many contributors to its pages, it has steadily grown in volume. No one, perusing the various articles, both clinical and scientific, which have been published will, we think, gainsay the statement that the *Journal* continues to play an increasingly important part in diffusing knowledge, and we hope, also, in stimulating the workers in the speciality to increased effort.



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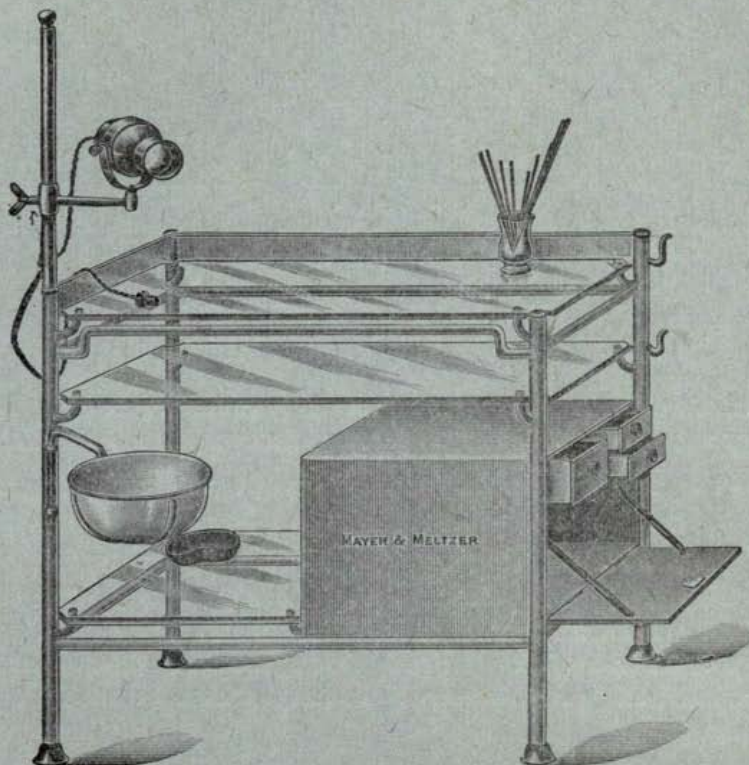
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# EXAMINATION TABLE

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