



II. SENATORE CAMILLO GOLGI.

Born July 9, 1843.

Died January 29, 1926.

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IL SENATORE CAMILLO GOLGI.

CAMILLO GOLGI was born of humble parentage at Corteno (Valcamonica) on July 9, 1843, and died at Pavia on January 21, 1926. At 22 years of age he completed his medical studies in the University of Pavia, and subsequently acted as Assistant in various clinics of the Faculty of Medicine there. He was most assiduous in his attendance at the Laboratory of Experimental Pathology, at that time under the direction of Bizzozero, the discoverer of the blood-plates. He had, for financial reasons, to leave Pavia for a time and take charge of a hospital for chronic patients, but he allowed no difficulties to discourage him, and, even in apparently uncongenial surroundings, carried on his researches. In 1873 he discovered the famous Black Reaction, which, in the practice of histology, has since borne the name of the "reaction of Golgi."

This reaction consisted in treating sections of the central nervous system with silver salts, and gave results so clear and so picturesque as to constitute a triumph in histology. It spurred the hope that by similar means equal success would be obtained in elucidating the histology of other organs of the body.

The silver methods of Golgi revealed the entity of the nerve-cell, its body, its processes and connections with other nerve units, and led Ramon-y-Cajal to his fruitful work on the contiguity of the nerve-cells and to his theory of dynamic polarization.

His discovery in 1880 of the nerve-ending in the musculo-tendinous zone, that delicate nervous mechanism since known as the "organ of Golgi," was another event of far-reaching importance. It cleared up, partially at least, the hitherto dark question of musculo-tendon sensation. By means of the organs of Golgi we are informed of the tension of our muscles, just as the dynamometer inserted on the trajectory of a rope can demonstrate the force sustained by the rope.

It must not be forgotten that it was not only in the realm of neuro-histology that Golgi was conspicuous; his researches on malaria were of extreme importance. In 1886 after he had returned to Pavia he noticed that cases of malaria were particularly numerous among the workers who cleaned rice—there being extensive rice-fields at no great distance from the city. His investigations on the blood of sufferers from malaria showed that in correspondence with the diverse phases of the acute attack there were changes in the malarial parasite, and that its evolution was intimately related to the varied rhythm of the fevers (quotidian, tertian, etc.).

Golgi attained the zenith of his fame in 1907 when, as the writer in *La Lettura* puts it, he had now reached the threshold of the Immortals. He was awarded the Nobel Prize at the same time as his friend Giosué Carducci, the great poet of the Risorgimento.

Previously Golgi had received the Thompson Prize from Boston and the Reinecker award of Würzburg. He had been created an honorary graduate of the Universities of Cambridge and Paris.

Though full of years and honours he carried out his research work to the end. His was a universal genius, humane in spirit, exalted in aim and character, and his passing in his 84th year was "*Non flebile quid, sed triumphale.*" H. C. M.

Part I.—Original Articles.

THE SEVENTH MAUDSLEY LECTURE.

THE PREVENTION OF INSANITY—A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE PROBLEM.

DELIVERED BY GEORGE M. ROBERTSON, M.D.,

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At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, held
in the Great Hall of the British Medical Association House, London, on
Thursday, July 15, 1926.

INTRODUCTION.

My first duty is to express my thanks to the members of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association for the great honour they have conferred on me in asking me to deliver the Maudsley Lecture.

Sir Frederick Mott, whose recent loss we all deplore, was good enough to suggest that as I had made some practical experiments in the early treatment of mental disorders, I should lecture on