

General Notes

Mr Verge states that his main objection to this type of operation is that "when a surgeon is working in the posterior ethmoid region he cannot see the highest or widest limits to which he may go . . . and especially is this the case when he is working upwards and backwards towards the dangerous area." My reply is that the dangerous area is not the post-ethmoid-sphenoid regions where the boundaries are constituted by relatively thick bony laminæ, *i.e.* the vertical plate of the palate bone with its orbital and sphenoidal processes, the body and the lesser wing of the sphenoid and the medial part of the orbital surface of the frontal bone; the dangerous area is the bony boundaries of the olfactory cleft and more particularly the cribiform plate and the medial surface of the middle turbinal. I have laid great stress on the necessity of avoiding *this* dangerous area and on the advisability of, as far as possible, preserving the middle turbinal. In cases where it is manifestly diseased, I defer its removal to the final stages of the transantral operation on the ethmoidal cells.

I have not been conscious of any difficulty in clearing out "border cells" whilst working across the antrum with Moure's curette and I do not think the view obtained of the post-ethmoid-sphenoid region from the external wound is as satisfactory as that usually obtained across the postero-internal angle of the antrum.

In cases where either the clinical symptoms or the X-rays suggest the concomitant existence of frontal sinus disease, I would certainly give preference to the type of operative approach advocated by Mr Verge, but as far as my personal experience goes, I have been unable to obtain practical confirmation of the frequency of frontal sinus infection which he assumes to occur in cases of long-standing suppurative ethmoiditis with polypus formation.—Yours, etc.,

J. B. HORGAN.

CORK, April, 1928.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Laryngology.—*President*, Mr Harold S. Barwell, F.R.C.S.; *Hon. Secretaries*, Mr W. M. Mollison, M.Ch., 23 Devonshire Place, London, W. 1, and Mr Lionel Colledge, F.R.C.S., 2 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Otology.—*President*, Dr J. S. Fraser, F.R.C.S.E.; *Hon. Secretaries*, Mr Alexander R. Tweedie, F.R.C.S., 14 Oxford Street, Nottingham, and Mr Nicol M. Rankin, M.B., 56 Harley Street, London, W. 1.

The Sections of Laryngology and Otology will hold their Summer Meeting conjointly on Thursday, 31st May, and on the two following days, 1st and 2nd June.

General Notes

The Section of Laryngology will meet on the afternoon of Thursday at 4 o'clock, when papers will be read. The usual Clinical Meeting will be held on Friday, 1st June, at 5 o'clock.

The Section of Otology will meet on the forenoon of Friday at 10.30 o'clock for the reading of papers. The usual Clinical Meeting will be held on Saturday morning at 10.30 o'clock.

Annual Dinner.—The members of the two Sections will dine together in the Hotel Victoria on the evening of Friday, 1st June, at 7.45 o'clock. The dinner, to which ladies are invited, will be followed by a dance. Price of tickets for dinner and dance £1, exclusive of wine. Members are requested to intimate to Mr Lionel Colledge, F.R.C.S., 2 Upper Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, their intention to be present and the number of their guests. Cheques to be enclosed.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, CARDIFF, 1928.

The Ninety-sixth Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Cardiff on the 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th July. The Association meets under the Presidency of Sir Ewen Maclean, M.D., F.R.C.P., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynæcology in the Welsh National School of Medicine.

The Section of Laryngology and Otology will meet on Wednesday and Thursday, the 25th and 26th. The following Office-bearers have been appointed:—

President—Donald Rose Paterson, M.D., F.R.C.P. (Cardiff).

Vice-Presidents—Edward Alban Evans, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Swansea), Edward David Darelan Davis, F.R.C.S. (London), Archibald Mason Jones, M.D., F.R.C.S.E. (Cardiff).

Hon. Secretaries—Arthur Abercrombie Prichard, M.D., 14 Windsor Place, Cardiff, and Drevor F. A. Neilson, F.R.C.S., 40 Queen Anne Street, London, W. 1.

The following provisional programme has been arranged:—

Wednesday, 25th July.—Discussion: "Chronic Ethmoiditis. Its Treatment, Conservative and Surgical," opened by Professor Ross Hall Skillern, Philadelphia, and Walter G. Howarth, F.R.C.S., London.

Thursday, 26th July.—Discussion: "Drainage of Brain Abscess," opened by Sir Percy Sargent, and Sydney Scott, F.R.C.S., London.

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FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OTO-RHINO-LARYNGOLOGY, COPENHAGEN, 29th July to 1st August.

The Congress will be held under the Presidency of Professor E. Schmiegelow.

The following subjects have been arranged for general discussion.

1. The Modified Radical Treatment of Middle-Ear Suppuration, introduced by Professor Tapia (Madrid), and Professor Neumann (Vienna).

2. Septic Diseases originating from the Throat, introduced by Professor Ferreri (Rome), and Dr Uffenorde (Greifswald).

General Notes

3. Surgical Diathermy of Malignant Growths in the Upper Air-Passages, introduced by Dr Dan McKenzie (London), and Professor Gunnar Holmgren (Stockholm).

4. The Anatomical Structure of the Ear and its Influence on the Course of Suppuration of the Middle-Ear, introduced by Professor Georges Portmann (Bordeaux).

Members who propose to attend the Congress are reminded that it is necessary to send 30 kronen (Danish crowns) to Dr Jørgen Møller, Lykkesholms, Alle 8, Copenhagen, V.

Messrs Bennett, Travel Agents, 66 Haymarket, London, W. 1, are making arrangements for travelling facilities to and from Copenhagen, and members proposing to attend the Congress should communicate with them. The same firm is also prepared to arrange tours both before and after the Congress.

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THE DALBY MEMORIAL PRIZE.

On the recommendation of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine, London, the Dalby Memorial Prize, 1928, has been awarded by the Council of the Society to Dr Otto Mayer of Vienna in recognition of his valuable contributions to Otology during the past five years.

The Dalby Quinquennial Prize is the gift of Lady Dalby, widow of the late Sir William Dalby, who bequeathed to the Royal Society of Medicine the sum of £500 as a trust, the income of which was to be given to whomsoever the Council regarded as worthy of recognition. This is the first occasion on which the award has been made.

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NORMAN GAMBLE FUND AND RESEARCH PRIZE.

Mr Norman Gamble has presented to the Royal Society of Medicine the sum of £1000 for the purpose of providing from the income of this fund a Prize of £50 to be awarded every fourth year for the best original work in Otology. The balance of the fund may be used for the purpose of awarding grants in aid of research work in Otology.

The first award of the Prize may be made in December 1930, by the Council of the Society, on the recommendation of a Committee appointed by the Council of the Section of Otology.

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THE JACKSONIAN PRIZE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.

The subject of the essay for the Prize of 1929 is, "The Pathology, Diagnosis and Surgical Treatment of Diseases of the Salivary Glands."

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THE WILLIAM POTTER MEMORIAL LECTURE.

Sir St Clair Thomson, who, as the guest of the American Laryngological Association at the 50th Annual Congress, has been on a visit to the United States, delivered the William Potter Memorial Lecture in Philadelphia on Wednesday, 25th April. The subject of his address was "The strenuous life of a Physician in the 18th Century."

General Notes

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CLUB OF NEW YORK.

Sir St Clair Thomson and Dr H. S. Birkett were amongst the Guests of Honour at the recent dinner of the Club held in New York on the evening of Saturday, 14th April. The President of the Club is Dr Henry Hall Forbes.

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Mr John E. G. McGibbon, M.B., B.Sc. Lond., D.L.O., has been appointed Hon. Assistant Laryngologist and Aurist to the Royal Southern Hospital, Liverpool.

We heartily congratulate Professor H. Burger on his appointment as "Rector Magnificus" of the University of Amsterdam.

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"THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN."

In the recent issue of *Guy's Hospital Reports* Mr W. M. Mollison gives an interesting account of the work of Samuel Sharp and his predecessors on the function and surgery of the tonsils. Samuel Sharp was a surgeon at Guy's from 1733 to 1757 and, in 1750, published a book on surgery in which he reviews the surgical treatment of the tonsils. He seriously encouraged the performance of the operation by describing it as "neither dreadful in the doing nor melancholy in the event."

The perusal of Sharp's book led Mr Mollison to dip into the history of the tonsil operation. He reminds us that in 1000 B.C., nearly 500 years prior to Hippocrates, the Asiatics seized the tonsil between the blades of a forceps, drew it forwards and with a semicircular knife removed one-third of the swollen part. Celsus advised that the tonsil should be disengaged all round with the finger and pulled out; if not separated by this method it should be cut out with a knife. Galen advocated the snare for the first time, a method which later became common. Paul of Ægina, about A.D. 630, recommended complete dissection. In the seventeenth century Ambrose Paré used an oral speculum which kept the mouth open while the surgeon operated on the uvula or tonsil. He also employed the cautery, passing the hot iron through a hollow tube placed in the mouth.

It is just a century since the tonsil guillotine came into use, when, in 1827, Dr Physick of Philadelphia improved upon and adapted Bell's uvulotome for this purpose. Morrell Mackenzie's instrument was a modification of Physick's.

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THE LATE DOCTOR RICARDO BOTEY.

Dr Ricardo Botey, who was born in Barcelona in 1855, was one of the most active of our Spanish *confrères*; he was the author of numerous contributions to the literature of the specialty, and he founded the *Archives d'Otologie, de Rhinologie et de Laryngologie*. He took a prominent part in the work of the various Congresses.

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BOOK RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

The Medical Annual: A Year Book of Treatment and Practitioner's Index. Forty-sixth year, 1928. Bristol: John Wright & Sons, Ltd. Price 20s.

Models of the Labyrinth



These models (King's College Hospital pattern) were devised by

Mr A. H. CHEATLE

and

Mr NEGUS

for teaching purposes and for investigating labyrinthine diseases.

The pointers on the Head frame lie parallel with the Frankfort plane, so that when the frame is on the head the models lie in correct orientation in all respects. The patient's head can be put in any position and the exact relations of each of the canals are seen; rotation and caloric tests can be carried out with the frame in position.

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