

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Diagnosis and Management of Vasomotor Disturbances of the Upper Air Passages.—J. L. Goodale. "Annals of Otology, etc.," xxv, 527.

In a large proportion of these cases the disturbing element is the entrance of a foreign proteid into the system, either through the respiratory or gastro-intestinal mucous membranes. Foreign proteids may also develop in or upon the mucous membranes through autolysis of pathogenic or saprophytic bacteria. The application of the skin test to these conditions is of diagnostic value when employed with a recognition of the phylogenetic relationships of animals and plants as determined by studies in serobiology.

Proteid for testing should be prepared from the keratin and sera of domestic animals, pollen of the chief causes of hay fever, various articles of food, and from various bacteria which invade the respiratory tract.

When the skin reactions have been determined, management of cases will depend largely on the relative preponderance of the local reactions to the clinical history. Septic foci should be removed. Vaccine therapy is likely in such anaphylactic cases to be more accurately guided than in the ordinary individual.

The results already accomplished have led the author to the conclusion that we possess in the intelligent application of the skin test a very definite aid in the diagnosis and consequent management of cases of vasomotor disturbances of the upper air passages, although we are as yet only at the entrance of this field of work. *Macleod Yearsley.*

 OBITUARY NOTICE.

PROF. FERDINANDO MASSEI, NAPLES.

Born July 25, 1847. Died March 7, 1917.

IN the death of Massei, of Naples, Italian laryngology has lost its *doyen* and all who knew him have lost a dear and charming friend. For some of the following notes of his career we are indebted to a notice by Dr. Grazi in the *Bollettino delle Malattie dell'Orecchio*, etc.

Ferdinando Massei came of a good family in Naples, where he was born, studied, and qualified. In the year 1868 he started a *Wanderjahr* through Europe and was much impressed with the importance of laryngology, which was then in its infancy. He decided to devote himself to it, and therefore followed the clinics of Mandl and Waldenburg in Germany, Fauvel in Paris, and Morell Mackenzie in London. Returning to Naples at the end of 1869 he commenced practising in the speciality he had selected, opening a free dispensary for diseases of the nose and throat, and he soon attracted numerous doctors and students. A few years later the University recognised his course of lectures. In 1882 he was made Liber Docent, and from that year until the day of his death at the age of seventy he taught regularly, and, in a letter in February last, he laments that his clinic was so crowded. He was made Professor in 1902.

After the death of Prof. Cozzolino, the Chairs of Otology and Laryngology were united, and at my last visit to Naples, a few years ago, I found Massei very satisfied in having, at last, a well-equipped clinic.

Massei was a hard worker and a ready writer. He himself founded the *Archivii Italiani di Laringologia* in the year 1880 and remained its director up to the last. We have frequently made abstracts from it in these pages.

Besides, he must have himself written more than 200 articles, and amongst them we recall the following: "Peri-tracheal Abscess in Children," "Laryngeal Complications of Carcinoma of the Skin," "Congenital Laryngeal Stridor," "Erysipelas of the Larynx," "Treatment of Laryngeal Papillomata *per vias naturales*," and "Anæsthesia of the Larynx in Recurrent Paralysis." He wrote a treatise on "Diseases of the Nose and Throat," which was translated into German, Spanish, and Russian, and is still well worth studying. He was justly proud of his statistics of laryngeal tumours, for he doubtless had a larger clinical experience of these than any other laryngologist in Europe.

He held numerous hospital appointments in Naples. He was Superintendent of the Diphtheria Hospital, where he was one of the first to employ intubation. Indeed, he was Honorary Consulting Laryngologist to nearly all the hospitals of Naples, and his services were not merely honorary, as he was always ready to give practical help at almost any hour.

It is not necessary here to enumerate all the learned societies of which he was a member, but it might be recalled that he was one of the Founders, and later a President, of the Società Italiana di Laringologia, Honorary Fellow of the old Laryngological Society of London, and that he was the sole representative of Italy amongst the select ten Honorary Fellows of the American Laryngological Association.

As he "arrived" early, was a leader of Italian laryngology, and inhabited the largest city in the Peninsula, it is not surprising that he had a very large practice. But he was a generous man and was never happier than when helping the poor. The commercial side of the profession was his last thought, and he was fond of saying that the consciousness of work well done was our best reward and that money was only a means for living.

Massei was not only energetic and learned, but his mind was nimble and he had a ready flow of well-chosen words. Hence, he was always welcome at scientific gatherings, and although he had not been to England for some years, many of us had the pleasure of meeting him at the International Medical Congress in Rome or the Otological Congress in Florence. At these Congresses he was the more welcome, as he was generally accompanied by his charming wife, who possessed so much of the well-known fascination of her countrywomen that, whenever I met her, I was reminded of the poet who described the daughters of that sunny land as having:

"Gli occhi stellanti e le serene ciglia
La bella bocca angelica, di perle
Piena, e di rose e di dolce parole."

As Dr. Grazi writes, Massei cannot easily be replaced: he was a genius in his own line and he passes away amidst the admiration and regret of all his colleagues.

We venture to transmit the sympathy of his colleagues in this country to his family and to his son, Prof. Raffaello Vitto Massei, whose writings we have already had the pleasure of reviewing in this Journal, of which Massei himself was one of the oldest and most faithful friends.

STCLAIR THOMSON.