

GENERAL NOTES

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

Section of Laryngology—President, Charles A. Parker, F.R.C.S.Ed.
Hon. Secretaries, T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., and J. F. O'Malley, F.R.C.S.
The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 2nd March, at 4.45 P.M.

Members intending to show cases or specimens are requested to give notice of the same to the Hon. Senior Secretary, Mr T. B. Layton, 10 Welbeck Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before the date of the Meeting.

Section of Otology — President, Hunter F. Tod, F.R.C.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, F. J. Cleminson, M.Ch., and Archer Ryland, F.R.C.S. Ed. The next Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 16th February, at 5 P.M.

Members intending to show cases or specimens are requested to give notice of the same to the Hon. Senior Secretary, Mr F. J. Cleminson, 32 Harley Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before the date of the Meeting.

* * *

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PORTSMOUTH, 1923.

The Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held at Portsmouth in July, under the Presidency of Mr Charles P. Childe, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital. The President will deliver his Address on the evening of Tuesday, 24th July, and the Sectional Meetings for scientific and clinical work will be held on the following days.

* * *

At the Meeting of the Scottish Society of Otology and Laryngology held at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, on 10th December, Dr R. P. Mathers, Dundee, was elected President for the ensuing year.

* * *

Professor M. L. Torrini, 81 Via Cavour, Florence, Italy, would be much obliged to readers of the *Journal* if they would send him reprints or refer him to their publications upon "Otitic Pyæmia."

* * *

THE LATE DR ALBERT H. BUCK.

We have been asked to publish the following obituary notice of Dr Albert H. Buck, the first President of the New York Otological Society, which has been prepared by Drs Robert Lewis and Edward B. Dench, and incorporated in the Minutes of the Society.

General Notes

There are comparatively few perhaps, who read this brief sketch, who will recall a courteous, kindly gentleman, whose smile was reassuring and whose countenance instilled a confidence in the strength and will to give aid to one in need ; a scrupulously honest, lovable man—one of the grand old men of medicine—Dr Albert H. Buck, who has just passed on.

He was born in New York City, 20th October 1842, the son of Dr Gurdon Buck, one of America's noted surgeons. Switzerland, his mother's native country and where he received a part of his early education, remained throughout his life the Mecca to which all roads led, whenever it was feasible for him to travel. He was an Alumnus of Yale College, Class of 1864 ; of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Class of 1867, and of the New York Hospital.

After his internship in New York Hospital he went abroad, and in Germany and Austria, under Politzer and others, devoted his entire time to the study of the ear and its diseases. After his return to New York City his indefatigable labours resulted in the early recognition of his ability and skill. He was made an Aural Surgeon in the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in 1872, and after half a century death severed his connection with the Institution as Consulting Aural Surgeon. For a number of years he was Consulting Aurist to the Presbyterian Hospital ; Lecturer, and later, Professor of Otology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department of Columbia University. He was fourth President of the American Otological Society, being preceded in office by Drs Henry D. Noyes, D. B. St John Roosa, and Clarence J. Blake, and he was the first President of the New York Otological Society.

Dr Buck's literary tastes and linguistic knowledge were employed in the editing of the voluminous and epoch-making medical works of the American Edition of *Ziemssen's Cyclopaedia of the Practice of Medicine* (20 volumes), 1874 ; the *Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences* (8 volumes), 1st Edition, 1887, 2nd Edition, 1900 ; the *American Practice of Surgery* (8 volumes), 1908 ; also the American Translation of Stricker's *Manual of Histology* (1 volume), 1872 ; and *Hygiene and Public Health* (2 volumes), 1879. These were distinct from his many contributions on otological problems in the medical journals. His work on *Diseases of the Ear* was peculiarly the individual results of his own observation and study : the 3rd and last edition was published in 1898.

After retiring from the practice of otology, his virile mind demanded occupation, and so, after much research in the libraries of this country and those abroad, Dr Buck gave to the world, in 1917, a most entertaining and instructive book, *The Growth of Medicine from the Earliest Times to about 1800* ; it was the first work published by the Yale University Press on the Williams Memorial Publication Fund, and, in 1920, in the seventy-eighth year of his life, he completed his labours with *The Dawn of Modern Medicine*, also published, under the auspices of the Williams Memorial Publication Fund, by the Yale Press.

His modesty and reticence were so marked that to many he was unknown, but fortunate were those who could claim the friendship of this true and lovable man. Many, many will be benefited because he lived and worked as befitted a man of science.

General Notes

THE ÓNODI COLLECTION.

For the convenience of those who may be desirous of studying the preparations which are now displayed in the upper gallery of Room II of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, Mr Layton has prepared and tabulated short notes upon the general arrangement of the specimens. They have been conveniently arranged in seven groups. Each group illustrating definite anatomical regions, so that the student may, in this way, be able to concentrate his attention upon one particular aspect of the subject, and will not find it necessary to pass from one part of the gallery to another to complete his study of a definite region.

Thus, in one section, the nose and nasal cavities may be inspected independently of the accessory sinuses; another series illustrates the sinuses in childhood, commencing in foetal life and passing through the period of eruption of the temporary and permanent teeth up to adult life. The general relations of the sinuses to the surrounding cavities with their important contents, such as the cranial cavity, the orbit, the nasopharynx, and the auditory apparatus, comprise another group. In the remaining four, the individual sinuses are dealt with and their many varieties and relations illustrated.

* * *

In the *American Journal of Röntgenology* for November 1922, Dr Charles F. Bowen of Columbus, Ohio, gives an interesting account of how he removed, in 1909, a tack from the bronchus of a child aged 12, without making use of the bronchoscope. Indeed, he tells the audience he is addressing, that although at that time he knew Chevalier Jackson by name, he had never heard of the bronchoscope. The case was one of supposed pulmonary tuberculosis, but on subjecting the chest to radiographic examination, the tack was discovered in one of the main bronchi. Tracheotomy was performed and the fluoroscope arranged. During this period, Bowen remained in an adjacent darkened room, and when the preparations had been completed and the lights in the operating theatre lowered, he entered; armed with a pair of forceps which he inserted through the tracheotomy wound, and under the guidance of the fluoroscope, he extracted the tack in less than fifteen seconds. Indeed, he accomplished his object before any of his assistants were aware of what had been done. He ascribed this to the fact that he alone had taken the necessary steps to accommodate his vision by a preliminary prolonged sojourn in a darkened room. At subsequent periods Bowen removed a number of foreign bodies from the œsophagus with forceps directed entirely with the aid of the fluoroscope.

* * *

Dr Frithjof Leegaard has been nominated as Professor of Otology and Laryngology in the University of Christiania in succession to Professor Wilhelm Uchermann.



