

(4) Tests of a similar nature, both conjunctival and subcutaneous, carried out with pituitrin Howard found to be quite unreliable.

He also found that the internal administration of pituitary extract, either of the whole gland or the anterior or posterior lobes, appears to exert no definite influence upon the symptomatology of the disease.

Thomas Guthrie.

Jugular Phlebitis, Sinus Thrombosis, Ulcerative Endocarditis.—**W. S. Laurie** (Melbourne). "Med. Journ. Austr.," March 13, 1920.

The case recorded, which ended fatally, was that of a young woman, aged twenty-seven. There was no history of ear disease, past or present. The source of infection was possibly the tonsils, which were somewhat large and spongy.

A. J. Brady.

OBITUARY.

ADAM POLITZER.

By the passing away of Prof. Adam Politzer in the eighty-fifth year of his life, the otological world is deprived of one of its most distinguished figures. The unhappy war has broken up many associations, and there is probably none more regretted than our long and intimate association with this outstanding otologist. His visits to this country were sources of profit and pleasure to the guests and the host alike. The welcome he received here was always warmly reciprocated to those of us who visited Vienna, and his hospitality was to some so profuse as to be almost embarrassing. Such remembrances make the regrettable events of the last six years all the more regrettable.

The older members of the present race of British otologists owe what is soundest and best in their knowledge to the teaching of Politzer, but he, on his part, attributes the pathological basis of his teaching to Toynbee, whose work and specimens he came to London to study in the earliest days of his career. Those who met him at an informal gathering at Sir Wm. Dalby's house in Savile Row will remember his looking round and recalling his visit to Toynbee amid the same surroundings.

The incidents of his life are such as would be expected of a man of his purpose and artistic nature. They are narrated so clearly and sympathetically by Sir StClair Thomson that our readers will welcome their reproduction here from the pages of the *British Medical Journal*:

"Adam Politzer was what the French call a *grand maître* in modern otology. Possessed of a charming individuality, he was thoroughly equipped in his youth, and started early on a career in which he became so distinguished. He was well advised by his teachers, who appreciated his talents, and he directed his attention to otology from his earliest years, realising the opening there was for this speciality at Vienna. Hence he passed several years travelling over Europe, studying acoustics with Helmholtz, histology with Kölliker, and physiology with Ludwig. In Paris he worked in the laboratory of Claude Bernard, and then he came to London to study with Toynbee. There can be little doubt that it was his English teacher who inspired him with his appreciation of the pathological anatomy of the mastoid. Politzer returned to Vienna in 1861, and it was sufficient for him to show his teachers the results of his scientific journeys for them to create a Chair of Otology, and he was elected as professor. He was not yet thirty years of age. He only had four pupils in his first course, but it is interesting to recall that one of them was Lucae, who afterwards was the well-known professor in Berlin. His name soon became known throughout the otological world, as it was early in his career that he discovered the method of 'Politzerising' the ear. His reputation

as a teacher became so well known that there are few aurists who have not based themselves upon his teaching, taking his career as an example and his ideals as an inspiration.

"He was a model teacher. Neat and dapper in his appearance, with sparkling intellectual dark eyes and a musical caressing voice, he quickly gained the goodwill and admiration of every pupil; and, in return, he did not forget his pupils, to whom he was devoted. Although I only worked with him for one semester, he presented me with a beautiful dissection of the middle ear, made with his own hands, as a souvenir, which I still treasure. He was enthusiastic and patient, and, although he only had eight beds and had to give his lecture in the middle of a ward, his classes were always crowded. These classes were held every day of the week, except Saturday and Sunday, from 12 to 1, and, although he had a private practice, to which patients flocked from all over the world, he was seldom five minutes late, and often remained until 1.30 and nearly 2. The course lasted six weeks, and cost 20 florins—or at least it did so when I attended it in 1893. As Anglo-Americans formed a large part of these classes, most of his teaching was given in excellent English, but I have heard him speak fluently in German, French, Hungarian, Bohemian and Italian during the one lesson. He had other talents; he wrote much; his text-book and his methods are known throughout the civilised world; he was always courteous; he had charm; he was a traveller; he was an artist of talent; he was a collector and connoisseur in art, and his skill with the pencil was a valuable asset in his teaching. His hospitable home in the Gonzagasse illustrated the two sides of his life; there he delighted to show his superb collection of pictures, and also to demonstrate his anatomical specimens.

"He loved to do the honours of his museum, to show bric-à-brac he had picked up in his many visits to Italy, and to demonstrate his innumerable pieces of normal and pathological anatomy, dissected mastoids, preparations of the labyrinth, or microscopical sections. He was an immense worker; he had a lovable nature, and his life was full and happy; but doubtless his latter years were clouded with the horrors of war. No one, particularly with his wide international friendships, could have deplored the war more than Politzer. While it was in progress, I had news of the old professor from a Scandinavian colleague who had been in and out of Vienna several times during the war. He told me coal was so scarce in that city that Politzer, for the sake of warmth, had betaken himself to a boarding-house. Every day, during the war winters, he walked from his boarding-house to his beautiful apartment. There, in spite of his four-score years, he still occupied himself with art and research in otology. . . . He was indeed a *grand maître*."

The number of Prof. Politzer's contributions to every department of otology is enormous, as will be brought home to anyone who glances over the list of literary references under his name in such a work as Jacobson's "Lehrbuch der Ohrenheilkunde." As examples we may note as very early ones a paper on "The Movements of the Air in the Eustachian Tube and the Variations of Air-Pressure in the Tympanic Cavity" (1861), another "On the Mode of Formation of the Light-Cone" (1864). Those who studied his small work on "The Membrana Tympani," published in an English version in 1869, would find in its comparatively few pages an enormous amount of compressed otology, and in its twenty-four chromo-lithographs a valuable condensed atlas of otoscopy. It is scarcely possible to over-rate his "Atlas der Beleuchtungs-Bilder des Trommelfells" (1896), which we presume to be in the possession of most self-respecting otologists. Whatever subject he approached he illuminated, and many will remember the light he threw upon the much-debated "dry catarrh" of Tröltzsch, when he described the pathological condition underlying it as "Primary Disease of the Capsule of the Labyrinth," now placarded as otosclerosis. In 1897 he published a description of the "Diseases of the Outer Attic," which must have saved many from the "radical" mastoid operation. He touched on all the minutiae of intra-aural interventions with enthusiasm tempered by the caution which results from experience.

His work on the "Zergliederung des Gehörorgans" was translated with loving care by George Stone, of Liverpool, and has been unsurpassed for the minuteness of its directions for the dissection and preparation of the ear by every method, including that by means of corrosion.

The "Lehrbuch der Ohrenheilkunde" has gone through five editions—the last in 1909—and has demonstrated the progressive mentality and maintained activity of this remarkable author. His "Wand-tafel zur Anatomie des Ohres" figure on the wall of every school of otology, as they did on those of his own, absurdly too small, clinic in Vienna. In this, however, room was found for life-sized portraits of Wylde and Toynbee. Those of us who in early days made a thorough study of Politzer's text-book, as translated by Dr. Cassells, of Glasgow, will, like the present writer, always owe a deep debt of gratitude to the author, who, while acknowledging his indebtedness to the inspiring influence of Toynbee, placed before us the science and art of otology as based on a sound pathology tested in the light of vast clinical study and experience.

One of the labours of love of his lifetime was his masterly "Geschichte der Ohrenheilkunde," of which a review appeared in this Journal in 1907. The work is full of antiquarian, classical and historical lore, and should be a cherished treasure to whoever is fortunate enough to possess it.

Politzer was an artist in every way. Paintings, curios, travel were hobbies, and it may be said in all reverence that in all his relations of life the artist showed himself. He strove for efficiency; his speeches and papers in many languages were obviously prepared with care, and not left to the chance of the moment. His care of his health and strength was, in a sense, an art, and his remarkable preservation of mind and body could only have resulted from great original physical strength maintained by the exercise of care, wisdom and courage.

He was the greatest aurist in the world, and most will admit that his place is not as yet filled.

James Dundas-Grant.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

PARIS.

Dr. Bourgeois has been appointed to the post of Oto-Rhino-Laryngologist at the Laennec Hospital, left vacant by the death of Dr. Lombard.

Dr. F. Lemaitre is organising the service of oto-laryngology at the St. Louis Hospital—the fourth service of laryngology in Paris.

Dr. Georges Laurens is conducting classes of practical instruction in Oto-laryngology at the Hôpital Saint-Joseph.

Dr. Wyatt Wingrave sends the enclosed cutting from the *Quarterly Review* (circa 1843):

ACCIDENT TO MR. BRUNEL.

"Mr. Brunel,¹ the celebrated engineer, had several narrow escapes with his life, but the most extraordinary accident which befel him was that which occurred while one day playing with his children, and astonishing them by passing a half-sovereign through his mouth out at his ear. Unfortunately he swallowed the

¹ Sir Isambard Brunel of Great Western Railway and "Great Eastern" fame.