

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.

Section of Otology—*Chairman*, Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G. *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, 20th April, 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.

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 Annual Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 4th May, 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.

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SUMMER MEETING OF THE SECTION OF LARYNGOLOGY, MANCHESTER, June 1923.

The Annual Summer Meeting of the Section will be held at Manchester on Friday and Saturday, 15th and 16th June.

Papers will be read and discussed on the morning of the 15th, and Clinical Cases will be demonstrated in the afternoon. On the morning of the 16th, further papers will be read and the Meeting will close at 1 P.M., unless it should be found necessary to adjourn the sederunt until after luncheon.

All who are interested in Laryngology will be cordially welcomed.

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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 to 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.

Mr Ernest B. Waggett, D.S.O., M.B., Ch.B. (London) has been elected President of the Section of Laryngology and Otology.

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The American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society meets at the Hotel Ambassador, Atlantic City, on 10th, 11th, and 12th May 1923. Dunbar Roy, M.D., Atlanta, Ga., President. William H. Haskin, M.D., New York City, Secretary.

General Notes

The American Otological Society meets at the Hotel Ambassador, Atlantic City, 14th and 15th May 1923. George E. Shambaugh, M.D., Chicago, President. Thomas J. Harris, M.D., New York City, Secretary.

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The American Laryngological Association meets at the Hotel Ambassador, Atlantic City, 16th 17th and 18th May 1923. Emil Mayer, M.D., New York City, President. George M. Coates, M.D., Philadelphia, Secretary.

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The Section of Laryngology and Otology of the American Medical Association meets in San Francisco, 25th June 1923. William B. Chamberlain, M.D., Cleveland, Ohio, President. Samuel Iglauer, M.D., Cincinnati, Secretary.

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The American Academy of Ophthalmology and Oto-laryngology meets in Washington, D.C., October 1923. Thomas Carmody, M.D., Denver, Colorado, President. Luther C. Peter, M.D., Philadelphia, Pa., Secretary.

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THE LATE HUNTER F. TOD, F.R.C.S.

At the Meeting of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine held on the 16th February, the following appreciation of the late President of the Section was delivered from the chair by Sir Charles Ballance, K.C.M.G.

"The British race are by nature shy and reserved. Of all the sections of our people, perhaps those who belong to the medical profession are more shy and more reserved than any other. But this afternoon I must speak to you without reserve. I could not do otherwise if I would. The words which I have put together are, to me, pregnant with emotion and come from my heart.

"Sorrow and gloom encompass our meeting to-day. I have the saddest of all duties to perform. It is to tell the members of the Section of Otology that the gallant spirit of our President has

'Gone before

To that unknown and silent shore'

and

'Joined the choir invisible.'

A community, such as the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, is endowed with continuous life, but with a life of ever-changing form. The individual members pass away, but the body corporate remains. Each member of our community contributes to the completeness of the body corporate, and herein it is that the death of any one of us, and especially such a one as Hunter Tod, leaves so great a void.

"It was my privilege to know our President well, both in his professional and private life, and I deeply mourn the loss of my friend. During the last few years he was often in my house, and on each occasion a merry freshness and happiness seemed to emanate from his presence. In fact,

General Notes

a visit from Hunter Tod was ever a welcome tonic, for he was one of those who 'make undying music in the world.'

"Our President revelled in the game of life. He played it from start to finish right strenuously and with zeal and enthusiasm, like a knight of the olden time. Incidentally I may mention that his fighting instincts were often used with success to increase the prestige of our specialty; while his intellectual gifts, his wide range of clinical experience, and his skill as an operator, were devoted to the science and art he loved so well.

"During all his long and painful illness no word of complaint ever passed his lips. His 'courage mounted with occasion.' It was of that type which never submits and never yields. Even to the last he met me with a smile.

"'The web of life is a mingled yarn, good and ill together.' 'It is a battle and a sojourning in a strange land.' The last fifteen months have been overfull of ill for our martyred President. He passed through mental and physical anguish to the better land, triumphant and victorious. His strength was made perfect in weakness.

"At the zenith of his career, and at the moment of his greatest professional success, 'Fortune, that lays in sport the mighty low,' brought to this lovable colleague of ours the unrelenting foe of a fell disease, and, lastly, death itself. But there is a golden lining to all this story of long-drawn-out tragedy.

"Though our President knew that the field was lost, and spite of all 'the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune' which it was his hard lot to bear, his unconquerable mind, 'freedom's holy flame,' remained tranquil and undismayed. He uttered no regrets. And when the time came when he was forced to lay down the armour and weapons of this world he 'let them go—gain, fashion, pleasure, power.'

"A rare and valiant character, a brave heart, and a high and noble courage this!

"The progress of medicine in the present day rests in great part on the labours of past generations. As Carlyle so well said, 'The craftsman there, the smith with that metal of his, with these tools, with these cunning methods—how little of all he does is properly his work. All past inventive men work there with him; as indeed with all of us in all things.' During the American Civil War one of the most famous songs of the soldiers of the North was, 'John Brown's body is mouldering in the dust but his soul is marching on.' May we not believe, yea, rather, we know, that the soul of our President will be with us in the coming years. For it is a sure and certain truth that the spirits of the great aural surgeons of the past have been with us and are with us still, vitalising and energising the labours of those who now contribute to the progress of our science and art."

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THE LATE HENRY LOWNDES LYNNAH, NEW YORK.

American Laryngology has to deplore the loss on 31st March 1922 of one of its most promising younger men in Henry Lowndes Lynnah. When I was in the States, in the summer of 1919, I came across many colleagues whom I had known as the leaders of the Old Brigade. J. Solis

General Notes

Cohen remains the vigorous *doyen*, though nearly ninety years of age. Bosworth must have passed his fourscore years; while French and Beverley Johnson (both of New York), with Nolan Mackenzie and Samuel Johnston (both of Baltimore), are vigorous laryngologists, although they have reached the psalmist's threescore years and ten.

In the next division the present-day leaders are all well known to us either personally or by reputation. From them I enquired as to who was the most promising amongst coming men? Almost with one accord they referred me to Lynah, and it was remarkable that his pre-eminence amongst his contemporaries was so universally conceded. The hearty welcome which he gave me enabled me to watch his excellent clinical work, and I was soon satisfied that their judgment was well founded. His knowledge and refined skill in endoscopic work was only second to one other man in his own country, and, we may therefore say, he was the second most eminent in the world. At the Willard Parker and Riverside Hospitals I saw his skill in the Department of Intubation and his success in dealing with the stubborn and serious cases of laryngeal stenosis. We have much to learn from our American colleagues regarding this obstinate and troublesome condition, as they appear to have more clinical material than we have. It is doubtless owing to the fact that O'Dwyer was a New Yorker that our confrères on the other side employ prolonged intubation more than we do.

It was delightful to note my young colleague's enthusiasm in his work and the pleasure that he evinced in welcoming anyone from the old country. His personal charm, of course, added to the attraction. I was at once impressed with his sincerity, his well-balanced judgment, and the reliability of his records.

Lynah was a Southerner, having been born and educated in South Carolina, and it was charming to see the affection he retained for that sunny State. He was only 41 when I met him, on the high tide of success, after many years of strenuous life.

I made up my mind that if ever asked who should be invited to come over from America to give us an Address on Stenosis of the Larynx or Trachea that I would warmly recommend the invitation being extended to Dr Lynah.

He is now dead at the early age of 44. All who knew him will feel a deep sympathy for the parents with whom he lived—he was never married; his friends will feel the tragedy of his early death; and American Laryngology thoroughly realises the loss of one of its best-loved and most promising sons.

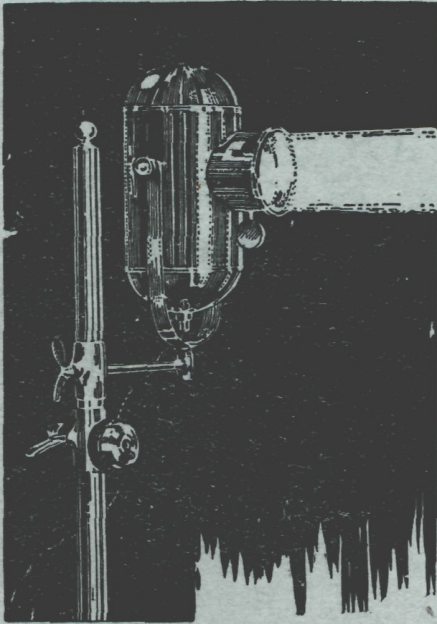
Dr Bryson Delavan writes to me as follows:—"No tribute of mine could do justice to the memory of Lynah, nor give adequate expression to our affection for him and our poignant grief at his untimely ending. But those nearest to him have the proud consciousness that, great as is the loss to them and to the world, he has left a name which will remain."

Further interesting particulars will be found in the full Obituary Notice in the volume of the *Transactions of the American Laryngological Association*, 1922, written by his devoted senior and admiring friend, Dr Arrowsmith. In the *Laryngoscope* for June, 1922, there is a Bibliography of his writings. They are well worth reading.

ST C. T.

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