

the author's methods are the same as those described by Schmiegelow (an abstract of whose principles of practice appeared in the *JOURNAL OF LARYNGOLOGY, RHINOLOGY, AND OTOTOLOGY* for the month of January, 1913), with the exception of the manner in which the rubber tube laid in the repaired laryngo-tracheal tract is maintained in position. The authors' modification consists in "anchoring" this tube to a pad of dressings laid over the wound and subsequently closing the wound by a definite plastic operation—a procedure which would appear to be an improvement for many reasons.

The book can be thoroughly recommended, and the profession are indebted to the authors for a very carefully prepared addition to the literature on the subject. *Alex. R. Tweedie.*

*King Silence.* A Story. By ARNOLD HILL PAYNE. London, N.D.: Jarrolds. Pp. ix + 295.

This is propaganda in the form of a story which, albeit there is a certain human interest running through it, is not distinguished by much literary merit.

The author is one of a steadily dwindling sect who would make the deaf a finger-spelling, signing class by themselves. This tends to inter-marriage, and is bad socially and especially bad eugenically. The pure oralists—who are, to Mr. Payne, anathema—seek, by careful and especially by *early* education in lip-reading, phonation, and articulation, to fit the deaf to take their place in the ranks of the hearing, and to hold their own among them in the battle of life. Only those who are "in" deaf education know the bitter warfare which has been waged in the debating hall and on the platform between these two antithetical schools. Classification of the deaf for educational purposes, with the adaptation of the methods best suited to the individual case, is slowly but surely gaining the day.

Mr. Payne calls the oral system the "German method," but it has been established beyond contradiction that the oral method was in use in England and Scotland in Dr. Johnson's time and is mentioned by Boswell. Braidwood, of Edinburgh, was its real inventor (although John Wallis, Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, described it to Charles II in 1663). It was taken up by the Germans because of its excellence and somehow got to be known by their name, but it is no more German than Shakespeare, Rameses, or Julius Cæsar.

*Macleod Yearsley.*

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## OBITUARY.

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### MRS. EMIL BEHNKE.

OUR readers will note with regret the death of Mrs. Emil Behnke, who carried on with remarkable energy and success the work inaugurated by her late husband, once a prominent figure in musical and laryngological circles in London. It will be remembered that he laid the greatest stress on the acquisition of correct inspiration in the cultivation of the voice, whether for singing or speaking. He was an ardent apostle of "diaphragmatic" breathing, which he taught with such enthusiasm and conviction that he obtained wonderful results in defects of the singing voice and particularly in stammering. Whatever differences of opinion may have existed as to some of the minor details of the "respiration"

problem, there is no doubt as to the excellence of the results. The writer has always contended that the success attained was due to some extent to the "personality" of the teacher; but, whatever the cause, there were the results. In his views he was vigorously supported by Mr. Lennox Browne.

Mrs. Behnke was endowed with exceptional powers of comprehension and exposition, and as to these was added a singular distinctness of utterance her capacity for carrying on the work was obvious. It is said that "a woman's work is never done," and Mrs. Behnke was an admirable administrator in domestic as well as business affairs. She was of English birth, being the eldest daughter of the late Charles Pope, Esq., of Weymouth. Her life was a full and often an anxious one, but her extraordinary activity up till the age of eighty-five shows what women, or, at least, some women, can do.

Her daughter, Miss Kate Behnke, has been a teacher almost from the cradle. The present writer remembers her as the subject of investigations into the changes in the vocal cords during the production of "head-notes" at a very early age. She is now a skilled expositor of her parents' teaching.

The late Mrs. Emil Behnke has contributed to literature works on "Stammering, Cleft-palate Speech and Lipping," and "The Speaking Voice." Her industry seemed unending, her energy inexhaustible, and these powers have been strained perhaps to the breaking-point during the war, when she laboured hard to enable candidates for military posts to overcome the vocal defects which stood in their way.

Many will mourn her loss as a friend and helper.

*Dundas Grant.*

#### O. VON CHIARI,

Professor of Rhino-Laryngology in the University of Vienna.

THIS well-known Professor of Rhino-Laryngology in the University of Vienna died suddenly of apoplexy on May 12, 1918, at the age of sixty-five, while on a shooting expedition.

Although his name, as well as his pleasant manners, suggested an Italian origin, Prof. Chiari came from Bohemia, being born in Prague in the year 1853. He qualified at Vienna in 1877, in 1879 he was associated with Schroetter, and in 1882 he qualified as a Privatdozent.

In 1899 he gained the title of Professor, and on the death of Schnitzler he succeeded to the charge of the Section of Rhino-Laryngology at the Poliklinik. Here he remained until he succeeded Stoerk as Professor in the Allgemeines Krankenhaus.

He organised the International Congress of Laryngology in Vienna, and in 1911 he inaugurated the new buildings of the University Throat and Nose Klinik.

Prof. Chiari was an extensive writer. He has been well-known to many generations of Anglo-American students in Vienna, and was a frequent and welcome visitor to this country.

In his klinik such well-known men as Kohler, Marschik, Koffler and Hanssel have been trained.

StC. T.

#### HANS KOSCHIER,

Vienna.

The death of this Privatdozent of Vienna was recorded last year. Koschier was aged fifty-two, and it came as a surprise to read that he