

General Notes

of operation, and to the ameliorating effects on an inoperable growth, of the absolute need of paying the most careful attention to the state of the mouth. The correction of oral sepsis he places as of first importance; *ceteris paribus*, the edentulous patient offers the better prognosis.

The book should be of interest and value to all practitioners in whatever branch they may work. The last word is to be found on all subjects from "insulin in diabetes" to "finger-cracks" and "freckles," and the volume is well worth the two guineas at which it is priced.

GAVIN YOUNG.

GENERAL NOTES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE,

1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1.

Section of Laryngology.—*President*, W. H. Kelson, M.D. *Hon. Secretaries*, Philip Franklin, F.R.C.S., 27 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, and Norman Patterson, F.R.C.S., 16 Devonshire Place, London, W. 1.

The Opening Meeting of the Session 1925-26 will be held on Friday, 6th November, at 5 P.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens along with a short précis of notes must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr Philip Franklin, at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

Section of Otology.—*President*, G. J. Jenkins, F.R.C.S. *Hon. Secretaries*, F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., 14 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1, and T. B. Layton, D.S.O., M.S., 10 Welbeck Street, London, W. 1.

The Opening Meeting of the Session 1925-26 will be held on Saturday, 7th November, at 10.30 A.M. Communications regarding patients and specimens along with a short précis of notes must be sent to the *Senior Hon. Secretary*, Mr F. W. Watkyn-Thomas, F.R.C.S., at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

During the Session 1925-26 the Sections will meet on the following dates :—

Section of Laryngology, on Friday, 6th November, 4th December, 5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May (*Annual*), and 4th June.

Section of Otology, on Saturday, 7th November, 5th December, 6th February, 6th March, 8th May (*Annual*), and 5th June.

Among the subjects selected for special discussion during the forthcoming Session, which are of special interest to members of the Sections of Laryngology and Otology, are :—

1. Focal Sepsis as a Factor in Disease ; to be discussed by the whole Society.

2. The Diagnosis and Treatment of Intra-thoracic New Growths ; to

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be discussed by the Sections of Medicine, Electro-Therapeutics, Surgery, and Laryngology.

The dates of these meetings will be announced in a future number of the *Journal*.

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THE SEMON LECTURE, 1925.

Dr Patrick Watson-Williams, Bristol, has been invited by the Semon Lecture Board to give the Semon Lecture, University of London. The address, which is entitled "The Toll of Chronic Focal Nasal Sepsis on Body and Mind," will be delivered in the Hall of the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W. 1, on the afternoon of Thursday, 5th November, at 5 o'clock. The Chair will be taken by Sir William Milligan.

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Sir St Clair Thomson has been appointed Honorary Consulting Laryngologist to the Italian Hospital, London.

Mr V. E. Negus, F.R.C.S., has been recognised as a teacher in the University of London, in Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Larynx at King's College Hospital Medical School.

Mr F. J. Cleminson, F.R.C.S., has been appointed Consulting Surgeon for Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, to the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart.

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DALBY MEMORIAL PRIZE.

Through the generosity of Lady Dalby, widow of the late Sir William Dalby, the Council of the Royal Society of Medicine accepted the sum of £500 as a trust, the income from which will be given every fifth year as a prize to whomsoever the Council of the Society should regard as having produced the best original work in Otology during the previous five years. The President and Vice-Presidents of the Section of Otology will make the recommendation. The first award should be made in May 1928.

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THE AMERICAN BOARD OF OTO-LARYNGOLOGY.

In our issue of June we published the names of the Directors who constituted the National Board for the purpose of conducting examinations in Otology and Laryngology, and for the issuing of certificates to the successful candidates who were deemed qualified to take up the practice of the specialty in the United States.

During the month of May an examination was held by the American Board of Oto-Laryngology sitting at Philadelphia. One hundred and fifty-seven candidates presented themselves for examination. Of these, 137 passed, and 20 failed to satisfy the examiners. A further examination was conducted in October, at the University of Illinois School of Medicine.

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THE BREAKING OF INSTRUMENTS DURING TONSILLECTOMY.

In the June number of *American Medicine* attention is drawn to this subject and to the legal aspect of such accidents. A case is recorded in which a throat specialist undertook to perform tonsillectomy. At the commencement of the operation the blade of a Seiler's tonsil knife broke off

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in the right tonsil region. The broken particle could not be recovered and the operation was discontinued. The patient was then X-rayed and the foreign body was located behind the right anterior pillar. She was next referred to a second throat specialist, who misinterpreted the X-ray plates and attempted to remove the foreign body from the tonsil tissue itself. Failing in this, he dismissed the patient who, a few days later, had an attack of coughing and fortunately spat the piece of metal into her hand. Finally, a third throat specialist was called who removed the tonsils very thoroughly, but adhesions and cicatrisation took place, causing severe pain on both sides.

A suit for damages was commenced against the unfortunate surgeon in whose hands the knife was broken, and the action was defended by the Insurance Company under whose protection he was. The case was settled by the company paying a small compensation in preference to fighting the matter in the law courts.

The Supreme Court of New York has recently reversed judgment for 160,000 dollars entered in favour of a plaintiff who claimed that the surgeon had broken a needle while injecting the tonsil region with a local anæsthetic. Although the defendant had called in another surgeon, both had failed to remove the needle. On the same evening the patient was taken to hospital, where ether was administered, but again the attempt proved unsuccessful. The defendant, therefore, had not only notified the patient of the accident, but had done his best to remove the foreign body both by his own efforts and with the aid of another surgeon.

The first specification was malpractice, the second was negligence, in that the defendant should have known that the needle was defective. A third specification of negligence stated that the surgeon should have made an attempt to extract the needle before completing the operation upon the tonsils. In defending his action the surgeon stated that he proceeded with the operation in the hope that he might find the needle when the tonsil was removed. The correctness of his judgment was shown by the subsequent developments and, in the circumstances, the Court decided that malpractice was not established.

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THE LATE PROFESSOR H. LUC, PARIS.

We regret to record the death of Professor Luc. We hope to publish an Obituary in the next number of the *Journal*.

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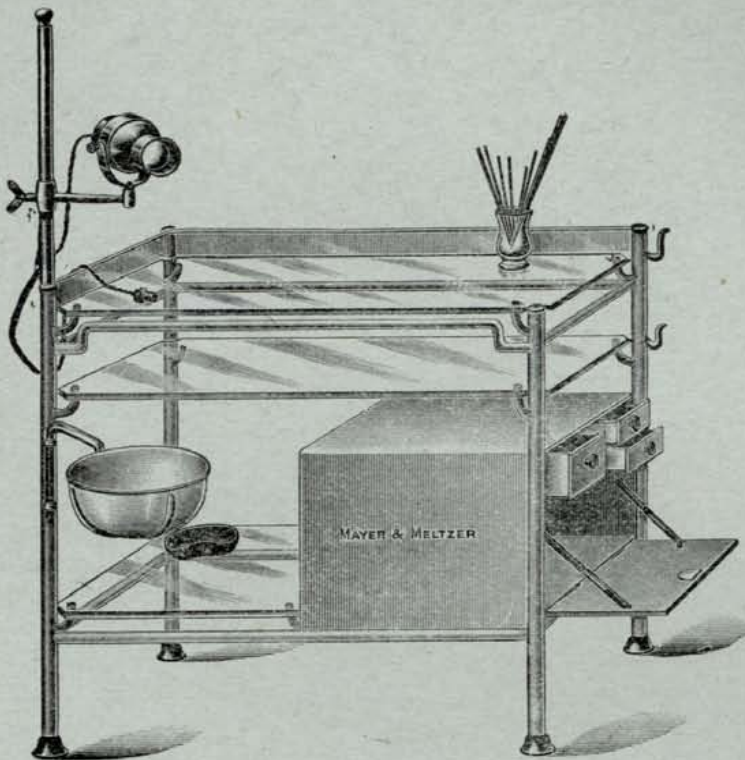
BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

Präparationstechnik des Gehörorgans mit Berücksichtigung des Nachbargebietes. By Dr G. Alexander and Dr J. Fischer, Vienna. With 76 illustrations in the text. Berlin and Vienna: Urban and Schwarzenberg. 1925. Price 10 marks.

Le Sinus Sphénoïdal; Anatomie, Exploration Chirurgie. By Georges Canuyt, Professor of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology, University of Strasbourg, and Jean Terracol, Chief of the Clinic of Oto-Rhino-Laryngology. 1 vol, 278 pages, with 134 figures. Paris: Masson et Cie. 1925. Price 25 francs.

EXAMINATION TABLE

Designed for Mr W. G. HOWARTH, F.R.C.S.



The Table is fitted with a "Chiron" Electric Lamp, a Swing Bowl, Cupboard for Dressings, and Drawers for Instruments. A most useful piece of furniture for the Specialist's Consulting Room.

Full particulars will be found on page 154 of our *Catalogue of Instruments used in the Practice of Laryngology, Rhinology, and Otology*, a new edition of which has just been published.

Mayer & Phelps

CHIRON HOUSE
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London, W. 1

