

## General Notes

life. No friend ever called upon him for help without immediately securing ungrudging devotion of time and energy. In his private capacity his unselfishness, kindness, and gentle courtesy never seemed to fail. A man of keen enthusiasms and of lovable character, George Nixon Biggs will be greatly missed." IRWIN MOORE.

### 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. A special informal Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 5th January, at 4.45 P.M., its object being to discuss cases which present a difficulty in diagnosis.

The next Ordinary Meeting of the Section will be held on Friday, 2nd February, at 4.45 P.M. Members desirous of showing patients or specimens are requested to send notice of the same to the Senior Hon. Secretary, Mr T. B. Layton, 10 Welbeck Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before 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, 19th January, at 5 P.M.

Members desirous of showing patients or specimens are requested to send notice to the Senior Hon. Secretary, Mr F. J. Cleminson, 32 Harley Street, London, W.1, at least twelve days before the Meeting.

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BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, PORTSMOUTH, 1923.

The Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Portsmouth in July, under the Presidency of Mr Charles P. Childe, F.R.C.S., Honorary Senior Surgeon of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

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Professor Wilhelm Uchermann of Christiania, having attained the age of seventy years, has retired from the Chair of Otology and Laryngology in the University of that city. It was due to his untiring efforts that the first Professorship in the specialty in Scandinavia was founded in 1891, in the University of Christiania. He himself was nominated Professor in 1896, and later, in 1911, Otology and Laryngology were placed upon a similar footing to that of the other medical specialties and became subjects of examination in the curriculum. We desire to congratulate Professor Uchermann on what he has accomplished in establishing the academic position of the specialty, and we wish for him a long period of well-deserved rest and enjoyment.

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THE ÓNODI COLLECTION.

Readers of the *Journal* will recall the circumstances in which this collection was acquired by the Royal College of Surgeons of England,

## General Notes

after its purchase from Dr Ladislaus Ónodi by members of the Section of Laryngology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The investigation, description, and cataloguing of the collection was placed in the capable hands of Mr T. B. Layton, M.S., and the work has been progressing steadily during the past year. Accommodation in the Museum of the College has been provided in the upper gallery of Room II., where special shelves have been erected. The mounted and finished specimens occupy a place adjacent to Mr Arthur Cheate's magnificent collection illustrating the anatomy and pathology of the Ear.

To quote from Sir Arthur Keith's recent Report, we read that the total number of specimens in the "Adult Series," preserved in formalin and spirit was 115. Of these, 90 preparations have now been made and mounted. Of these, again, 34 have been identified in Professor Ónodi's published works—namely, 12 in Dr Dan M'Kenzie's translation of "The Relations of the Lachrymal Organs to the Nose and Nasal Accessory Sinuses," and 22 in Dr Lückhoff's translation of "The Optic Nerve and the Accessory Sinuses of the Nose."

The original specimens, 90 in number, which were photographed for Ónodi's work on "The Nose in Children" still await identification and preparation, and it is hoped that this will be accomplished in the course of another year.

In addition to the wet preparations in the Collection, there are many which are macerated and dry which have been obtained from more than 100 skulls. Mr Layton has also examined and selected a number of them for exhibition.

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### "SHRUNK-HEADS, EAR-PLUGS, AND LABRETS."

Under this title Sir John Bland Sutton gave a very interesting address, entitled, "Spolia Nemoralia," at the *Conversazione* of the Royal Society of Medicine, held at 1 Wimpole Street, on the evening of 8th November. It was published in full in the *British Medical Journal* of 18th November.

In his description of the customs of the Indian tribes inhabiting the Amazonian forests, Sir John dwelt upon and illustrated the extraordinary practice prevalent amongst the Indians of perforating the lobules of the ears and inserting plugs often of a diameter which resembled that of a bung. Some of the ear lobes become so distended in this way that they reach almost to the shoulders and resemble the wings of bats.

In British East Africa, the Masai and Kikuyu have a similar practice, and when the plugs are detached, the holes produced by them are so large that the lobule can be looped over the helix and thus serve as a protection to the meatus. The deformed ears become a source of great pride to the possessor and an envy to his neighbours. When men quarrel they snatch at the ear-loops and attempt to tear them.

"Shrunk-heads, ear-loops, and labrets appeal to me," said Sir John in concluding his address: "My father taught me to stuff birds at the time my mother stuffed me with the creed and the ten commandments. Later in life, I saw savages ornamented with feathers, skins, teeth, and claws in tropical forests; similar decorations are worn by fashionable human beings, who strut in Piccadilly or parade the paddock at Ascot."

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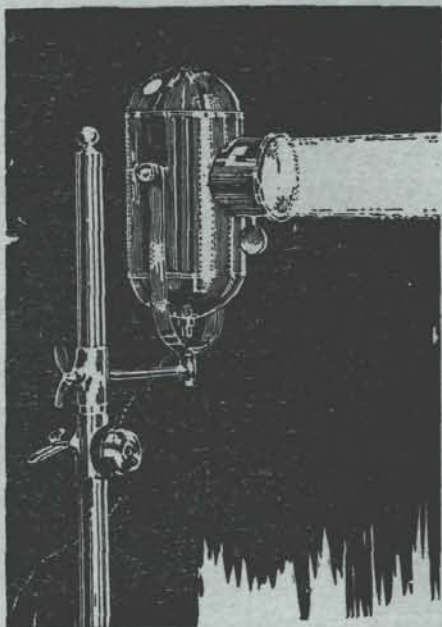
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