

## ABSTRACT

### EAR

*Case of Lateral Sinus Thrombosis.* TRESIDDER, MAJOR A. G. (*Lancet*, 1942, ii, 543), publishes an interesting case of Lateral Sinus Thrombosis in a soldier, aged 36, suffering from chronic otitis media. It illustrates forcibly the very strong risks of Sulphonamides as masking symptoms to a dangerous extent, a probability that should be kept well in mind by all practitioners.

MACLEOD YEARSLEY.

## OBITUARIES

DR. D. BRYSON DELAVAN

(1850-1942)

New York

AMERICA has lost her senior and most distinguished laryngologist, and all countries have lost the doyen of the specialty, in the death of Bryson Delavan in his 93rd year. He had a long record of work, of various professional offices, and of honours since he graduated from Yale as long ago as 1875. He was elected Professor of Laryngology in the N.Y. Polyclinic Medical School in 1887 and served in several hospitals. His status in the profession generally was shown by his being a member of the American Medical Association and of the American College of Surgeons. His warmest interests were always devoted to the work of our specialty and, in it, particularly to the American Laryngological Association, which he joined soon after its foundation in 1878. It is a very select body. Although there are in America and Canada 8,000 physicians who practise only in the Nose, Throat and Ear, the membership of the A.L.A. is strictly limited to 100 members. He was President of this distinguished Association in 1893 and again in 1918. This devotion to its interests was shown by his being presented with its Gold Medal in 1931, the year in which he celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his membership. His name was put down for a communication at the Annual Meeting in May last, when he had entered his 93rd year. Another interest was the flourishing N.Y. Academy of Medicine, in which he organized the Section of Laryngology in 1886.

Delavan's mental, like his physical vigour, was preserved to the end, both in great measure due to his diversity of interests and his zest for life. He had a gift for friendship. His devoted daughter writes that with him "friendship was the very essence of his life and no one could be fuller of that sentiment". He never disposed of anything that anyone he cared for had given or written to him, and it appears that he had kept all the letters that the writer of this notice had sent him since they first met in an annual gathering of the British Medical Association in London in the 90's of last century.

## Obituaries

His contributions to our literature were numerous and all marked by his keen observation and all standing the test of time. He was one of the first to call attention to subglottic cancer of the larynx. He was among the first in U.S.A. to practise and recommend laryngofissure and his open-mindedness was shown by his pointing out the possibility of the benefits of radium in certain manifestations of laryngeal cancer. He contributed largely to our knowledge of naso-pharyngeal fibromata,—a comparative rarity in this country.

Socially he was what Dr. Samuel Johnson liked—a very “clubable man”. Like all his nation he was much given to delightful hospitality, much appreciated by many visitors from this side. It was made still more acceptable by his cordial and charming manners. Though of slight figure he had a dignified and distinguished bearing which made him an attractive figure in the medical gatherings he attended so frequently. All the laryngologists in America looked up to him as their *pater patriae*.

StC.T.

HERBERT S. BIRKETT, C.B., M.D., LL.D.

(1864-1942)

Montreal, Canada

DEATH has taken a heavy toll of our leaders lately. Within a year the doyens of French and of American Laryngology have gone with Moure of Bordeaux and Delavan of New York, and now the loss is Canada's and Britain's in the death of Herbert Birkett.

Dr. H. S. Birkett, who died in July, at the age of 78, was the most frequent of all the Overseas visitors to this country and none was more welcome. Born in Ontario he came to school here in Chester, and this doubtless helps to explain his fondness for England where he felt so much at home. Graduating at McGill University in 1886 he wisely worked as demonstrator of anatomy for seven years. He served as lecturer before becoming Professor of Otolaryngology in his University in 1894, a post he held for no less than 37 years before becoming Emeritus in 1932. His record was so good that he was elected and served as Dean of the Medical Faculty for eight years. His work was recognized by an Honorary LL.D. His high standing in North America is shown by his having held office as President of the exclusive American Laryngological Association, of the American Otological Society and of the large Society conveniently known as “The Multilogical”, viz. the “American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otological Society”. On this side he was Vice-President of his Section at an Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association and delivered the Semon Lecture in 1922. To these shores, always accompanied by his wife and Miss Birkett, he frequently came to visit his many friends and seldom missed the annual gathering of the B.M.A.

He had long been an active officer in Canada's Territorial Army, like another esteemed member of our specialty, Ernest Waggett. Of both of them it used to be said in regard to the Great War that “they were the first to be in it and amongst the last out of it”. Birkett organized and for three and a half years commanded the 3rd Canadian General Hospital (McGill). He was consultant in Otolaryngology at Boulogne in 1919 and remained in France